YS COMICS

2 灰は灰に…

闇のイージス

原作/七月鏡一
KYOUICHI NANATSUKI & YOSHIHIDE FUJIWARA
作画/藤原芳秀

AEGIS IN THE DARK

YS COMICS

闇のイージス 2 灰は灰に…

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七月鏡一
藤原芳秀

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お前の牙は叩き折った。

AEGIS IN THE DARK

Defense4　夜を駆ける
彼の世界に生きる、黒後の狼り使「イージス」（被被人）、彼を被被することに被害を感やす刑被、守被被子が出被、被被爆被被、真鳥を被被中の被人をつけ被う、そこに現れた男被は!?

Defense5　矜かれし者
個執道かつ個被な少年被のために、地被の被しみを被わい被ける少女、黒人はいかにして被女を被うのか？　そして被人の被つ被の被さとは——!?

Defense6　灰は灰に…
司直の手を逃れるため自らを死亡したことにし、国外逃亡を図る被大企被グループの黒被、黒被、被のもとに送り込まれる刑被を被黒するために雇われたイージスを待っていた男とは——!?

今、一番おもしろい

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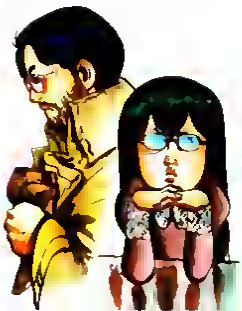

原作／七月鏡一(左)
1968年 北海道出身。90年に少年サンデー原作大賞に入選しデビュー。代表作「シーザス」(作画-藤原芳秀)「アームズ」(作-園川(兎ニ)原案協力など。舞原の企画立案 脚本なども手がける。

作画／藤原芳秀(右)
1966年 鳥取県出身。84年に第14回小学館新人コミック大賞に入選しデビュー。代表作「拳児」(原作-松田取締)「シーザス」(原作-七月鏡一)「コンデ・コマ」(原作-鍋田吉郎)など。

原作/七月鏡一
KYOUICHI NANATSUKI & YOSHIHIDE FUJIWARA
作画/藤原芳秀
YS COMICS
2
闇のイージス
AEGIS IN THE DARK

AEGIS IN THE DARK

KYOUICHI NANATSUKI & YOSHIHIDE FUJIWARA

Defense 9	夜を駆ける Ⅰ	*Night Runners 1*	5
Defense 10	夜を駆ける Ⅱ	*Night Runners 2*	29
Defense 11	夜を駆ける Ⅲ	*Night Runners 3*	49
Defense 12	夜を駆ける Ⅳ	*Night Runners 4*	69
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Defense 14	砕かれし者 Ⅱ	*Cracked Woman 2*	109
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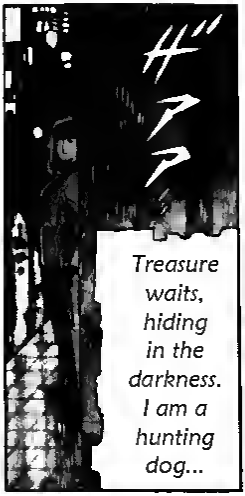
Defense 16	灰は灰に… Ⅱ	*Ashes to Ashes 2*	155
Defense 17	灰は灰に… Ⅲ	*Ashes to Ashes 3*	175
Defense 18	灰は灰に… Ⅳ	*Ashes to Ashes 4*	195

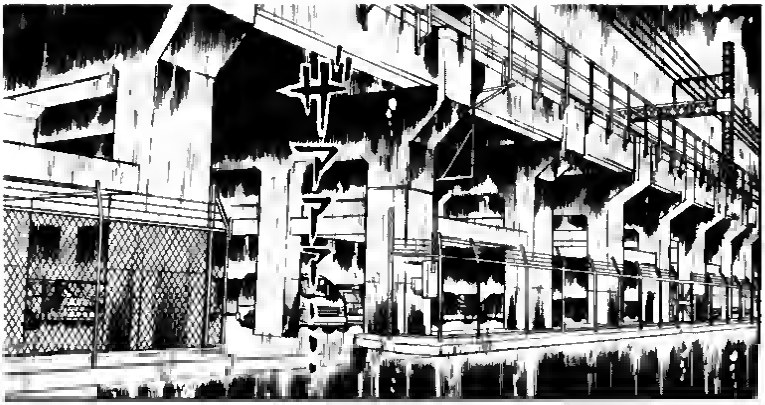

ザアアア
Treasure waits, hiding in the darkness. I am a hunting dog...

ザアアア
Defense.9
夜を駆ける I
Night Runners I

ザアアア
A man called "Aegis"!

The treasure's name is Tate Karito.
ザッ

Defense.9
夜を駆ける I
Night Runners 1


ザアアア…

ザアアア…
Shield of Aegis …
The "protector" who says he'll guard anyone no matter who they are as long as the money stacks up.

Are you … the person I'm supposed to meet?

ザアアア…

I'm ... Mashima Tadao ...
I'm Tate Karito.
ガァァァァ
It's to guard me and escort me to Kurasakai city until tomorrow at 8.
Are you going to ask about the mission details?
The mission is only to escort during the travel time. There shouldn't be any need to inform you.
What's your objective in heading to Kurasakai city?
Get in the car.

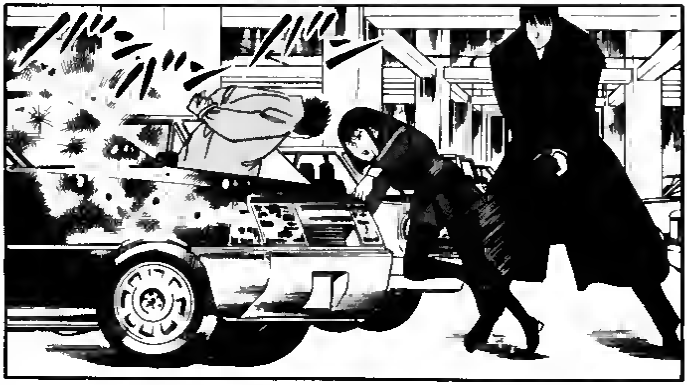
カ!
カ!
カ!
Mashima Tadao, bomber.
You have nowhere to run.
ス.
Don't move, police!
Put it on the ground.

When my info said that you'd contacted the 'protector', it turned out to exact!
I've heard the rumours, Shield of Aegis.
The worst kind of man who guards even criminals as long as there's money...
I haven't done anything yet; what's the charge, Detective Morito?
South Shinjuku station lifestyle security division, Morito Youko – make sure to remember it!

Interference with a public servant in the execution of duties, as well as assault of an officer; any complaints?
ブチブチ!!

You're my most hated type of person!
How many people do you think have died from his bombs!?
Someone who protects him and lets him escape is the same as he is!
It's them ...
Their hitman has come to kill me ...!
'Them' ...?
What's that?!

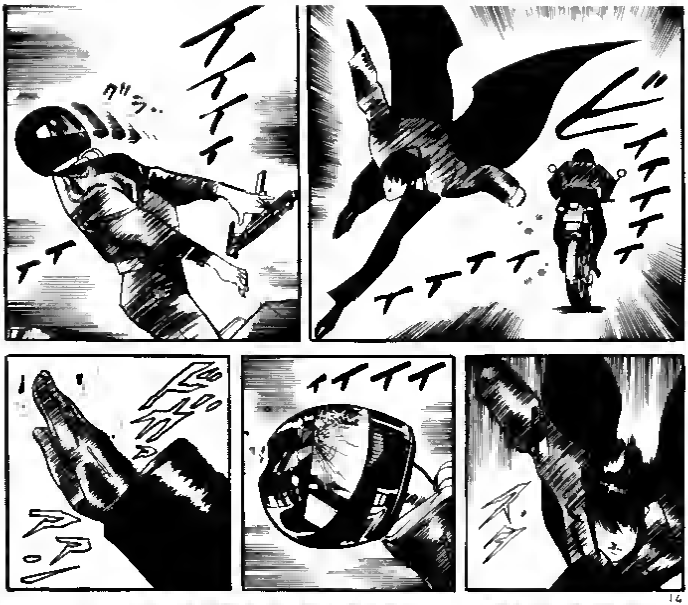
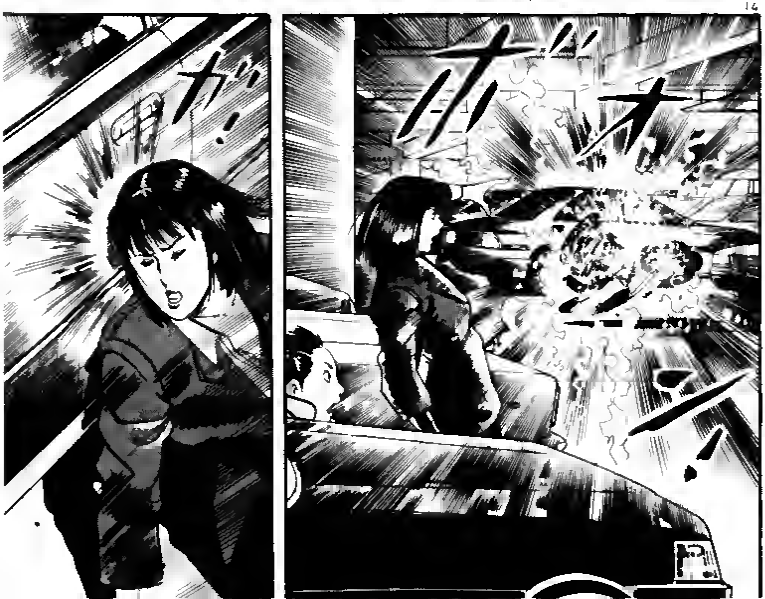
The organ-ization that... hired me...!
The Clan ...
ガガガガガ



Like I'll let you!
A bullet-proof shell to make a bullet-proof helmet ...?!
Unh!
You?!

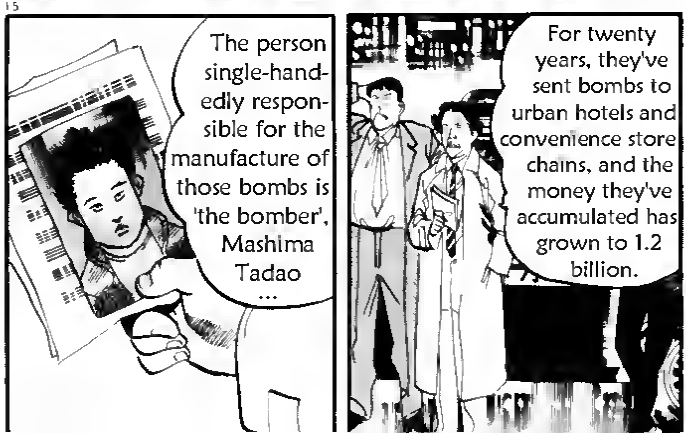
バッキン
What ...?!

ズドン!!


イイイイ
グラ…
アア
ビュュュュ
アアアア
アア
イイイイ
アア
14

メ!!
ボォ
ン!!

Shield ... of Aegis ...
The hell... are... you ...?

Among other things, everything from arson to kidnapping... amongst all that, the recent hits have been bomb terrorism.
The Clan is a terrorist group that specializes in corporate coercion.


The person single-handedly responsible for the manufacture of those bombs is 'the bomber', Mashima Tadao ...
For twenty years, they've sent bombs to urban hotels and convenience store chains, and the money they've accumulated has grown to 1.2 billion.

Still, although the reasons are unknown, in the past week the relationship between the Clan and Mashima deteriorated...
We saw a good opportunity to arrest them and the joint investigation headquarters pursued Mashima, but...
White collar crimes, so to speak.
A truly hardworking bomb manufacturer. The bombs he constructs are said time and time again to be perfect, almost artistic.
Even if they're arrested by the joint investigation headquarters, they'll be taken away by the central office's public welfare division.
I wasn't issued any information at all ...
To be so audacious, acting independantly
What were you thinking, Officer Morito ?!
16
Hmph, he won't confess, this hitman from the Clan.

The dead bodies that turn up from his bombs ... are my jurisdiction!
It's central office policy, we have no right to object!
Morito, I'm taking you off the investigation; I'll take your gun and badge, go back to the station.
17
ゴト、

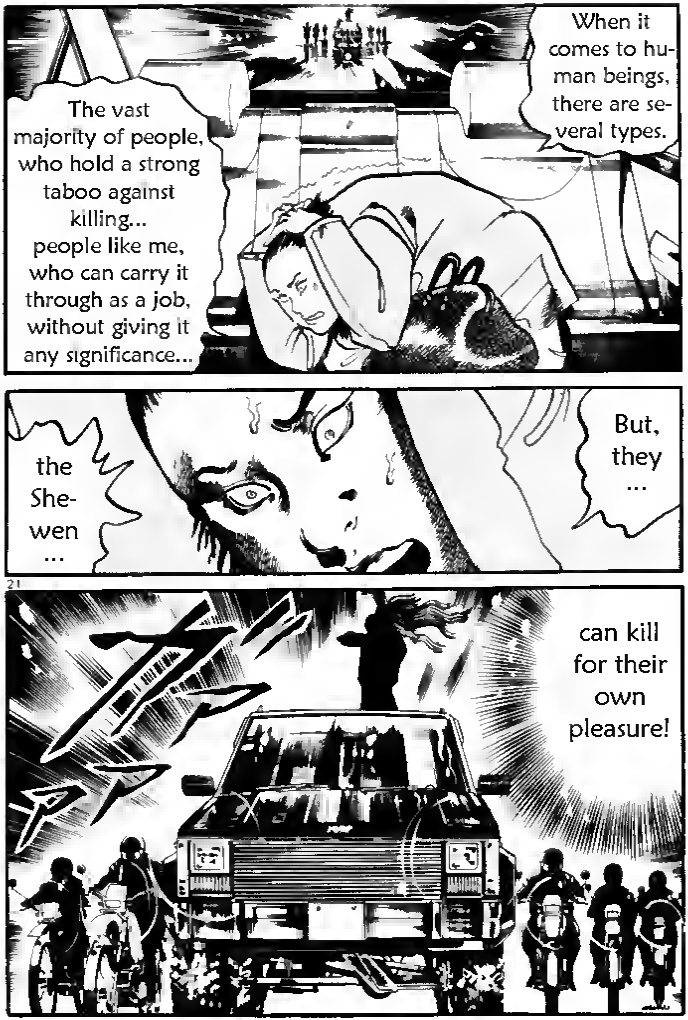
Even the rain stopped, huh

Ma-shima, Aegis ...
I won't let you escape!

The destin-ation they were heading for was Kurasakai city ...

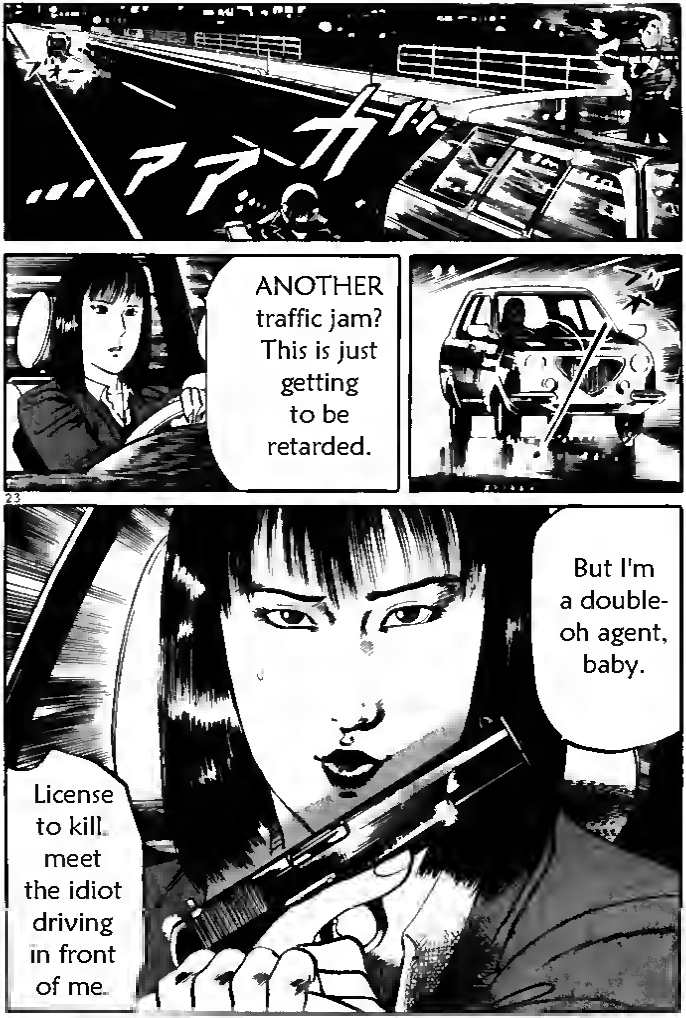
ズアアア……
It's a magnificent arm... Tate.
Why are you doing 'protector' work? On top of being overly dangerous, it's also pretty easy to piss people off in this line of work.
ズアア
Looking at your eyes, you don't seem to care, eh ...
ズア...
19
The kind of person who, without bringing unnecessary emotions into the work, just handles everything easily with a cool head..
You're the same kind of person that I am ...

No-thing-ness ...?
The 'master of no-thing-ness' ...
100 metres behind us, a four wheel drive car!
Bullets, hide!
It's the Clan's She-wen!
She-wen ...


When it comes to human beings, there are several types.
The vast majority of people, who hold a strong taboo against killing... people like me, who can carry it through as a job, without giving it any significance...
But, they ...
the She-wen ...
21
can kill for their own pleasure!

Heh heh heh ...
So the person Mashima hired is the Shield of Aegis, huh ... interesting!
Looks like it's going to be a fun night ...
a hunting night!

...アア...カ"
Mashima, I don't know why you're being chased by the Clan; nevertheless, tonight I have just one reality.
23
That you and Aegis are dirty criminals ...
and I'm the hunting dog that will pursue you!


...アア...カ"
ANOTHER traffic jam? This is just getting to be retarded.
23
But I'm a double-oh agent, baby.
License to kill... meet the idiot driving in front of me.

Be sure to get your entries in by May 15. We look forward to seeing all the funny stuff you come up with!

Think you can make something funnier than that last page?
Always wanted to see your name on a manga release?
Enter the lulz contest on our site, and YOU TOO can be famous* throughout the entire internet**!

http //xposedscanlations wordpress com/

X-POSED SCANLATIONS

* Results may vary.
** "Entire internet" only valid for the portions of it that read manga.

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X-POSED SCANLATIONS

Translator: Natsume Rika

Raws: Dante Julius

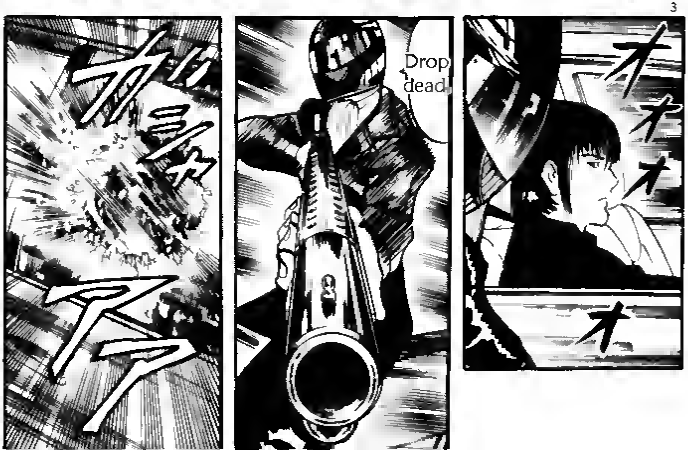
Project Leader: Rainn Aron

Cleaner/Typesetter: Pom Rania

Defense.10
夜を駆ける Ⅱ
Night Runners 2

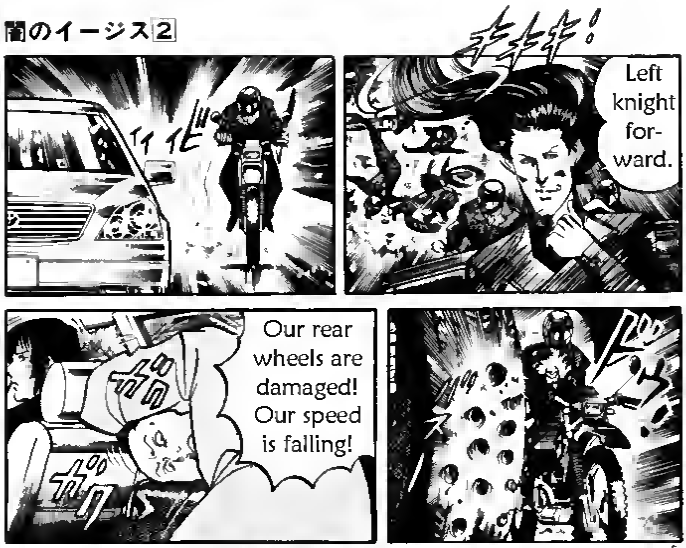
ウォォォ

クォン
Pawn, advance!
Bishop, fall back five seconds then move side to side.
クオオオ


ガシャア
Drop dead.
オオオオ

4

SFX
scream


Left knight forward.
Our rear wheels are damaged! Our speed is falling!

Send the queen forward.
Yes.

And it's check-mate.
It is an honour to be able to meet you, Shield of Aegis.
BLAM!
Ch!
ズオオオ...

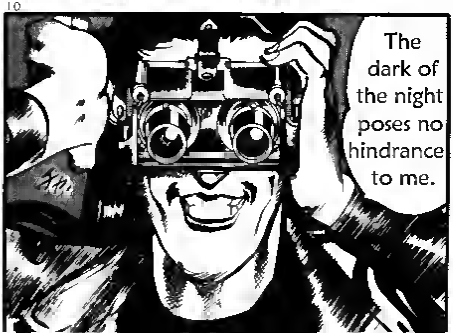
BLAM!
BLAM!
Move it, you're in the way!

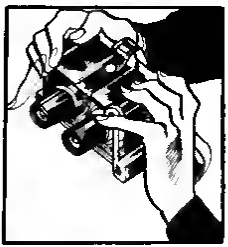
Go back! Don't let them get away!

ゴゴゴゴ
ゴロン
ゴロン
ゴロン
ゴロン
ゴロン
ゴロン

So they went in the car junkyard, huh... heh heh.

ウオン
ウオン
It's useless to run, Mashima, protector! You too, helper who came later!


The dark of the night poses no hindrance to me.



ウオン
Morito... why are you chasing me around?
Your obstinacy isn't the police way.
Two months ago, the Clan used your bomb to threaten a convenience store chain.
The convenience store's people agreed to payment of the demanded two hundred million yen.
TL
2 million
USD

A seventeen-year old girl nearby... passed away.
But ... the bomb detonated.
What's more, it was over twenty minutes before the given time.
Her name was Anzai Noe.
Hanging out by a convenience store late at night, chatting with her friends on her cell phone ... she was that kind of girl.

She was a good girl, a delinquent from the world's point of view, but ... she was a good girl.
She'd been in protective custody seven times and was almost like someone I was in charge of...
The lot over at central office just think that, as they arrest the Clan, you'll follow naturally...
Now, I'm the only one who is chasing you for her sake.
The information given to them doesn't get issued down to me, so I wasn't able to give the bastard who brought about her death a suitable punishment.

That's my ... spirit as a police officer.
Both the person who built the bomb and the protector who intends to help him,
I abso-lutely won't let you get away.
20 min-utes, huh ...
Heh heh
14
You !?
What's so funny?!

ウォーン
They're here ...!
ブッ
バッ
ウォオオオ

バリバリ
バババ

ドン
ドン
ドン

They're close!
Corner and kill them without fail!
I saw them! The scrap heap on the left!

They're all hunters who corner their prey using reasoning and persuasion.
ウオン
ウオン
They aren't your average hitmen... the ability to accomplish their goals, the logic of a combat organization
Everything, top to bottom.
Officer Morito ... take off your clothes.
ス！
What is your plan for getting out of this mess, protector? Tell me!
……

They don't know your true intent as the person who just leapt into all this a bit ago ...
To say nothing of the fact that they also shouldn't be thinking that you're a woman, detective.
W-what, that's cryptic!
What they're after is a logical solution.
To that end, we'll try an illogical solution on them and, although it'll only be for a few seconds, their thoughts will come to a standstill.
We could also strip you down and throw you out there stunned, the result is the same.
Don't fuck with me...! I re-fuse!

You ...!?
スチャ!
メキ

20

At this rate, all three of us will die; walk out on your own legs, or get rolled out...
Decide for yourself, chief officer Morito!
!

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Translator: Natsume Rika

Raws: Dante Julius

Project Leader: Rainn Aron

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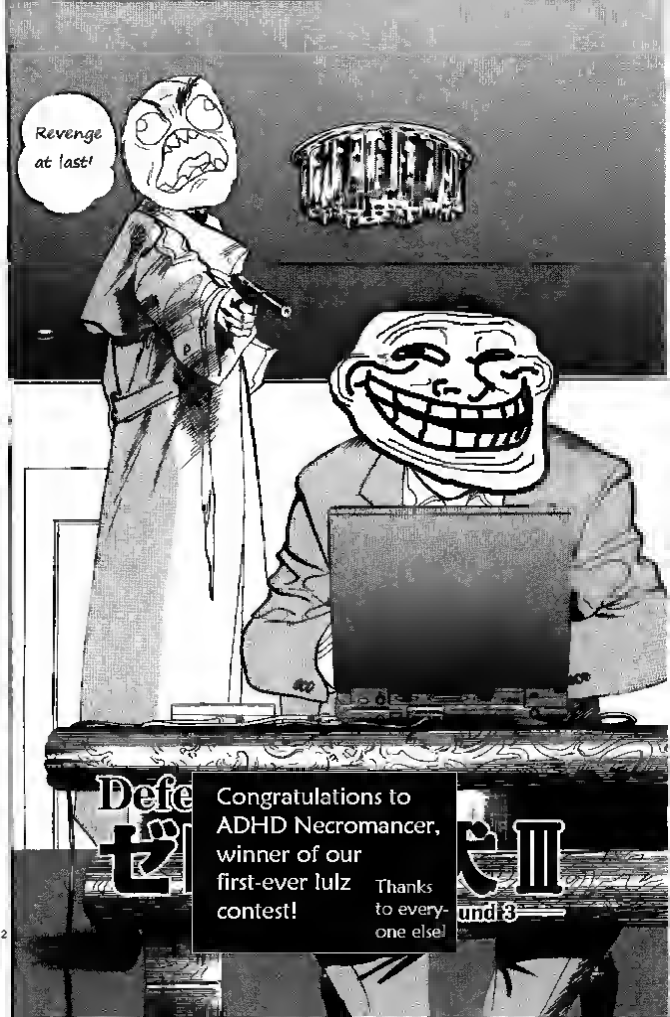
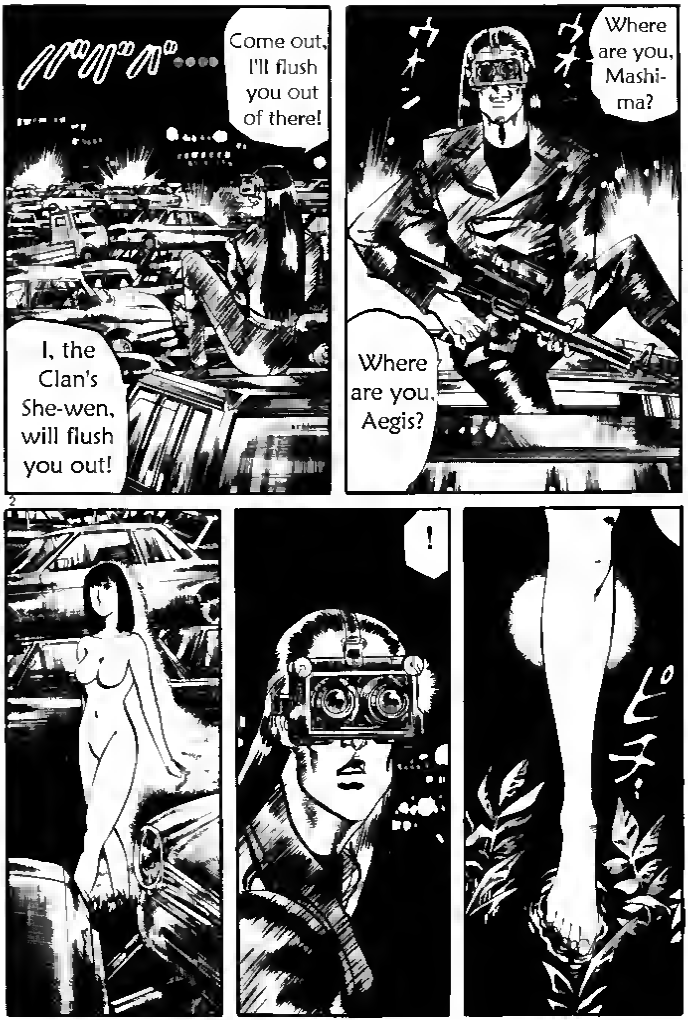
ズオン
You don't have to come and confess ...
We're looking for you! We gon' find you! We gon' find you!
What IS he saying?!
of the "Bed Intruder" song of internet fame.
We got your t-shirt, you left finger-prints and all.
run and tell that
run and tell that
It appears to be a poorly-done rendition ...
You are really dumb. For real.
You are so dumb.

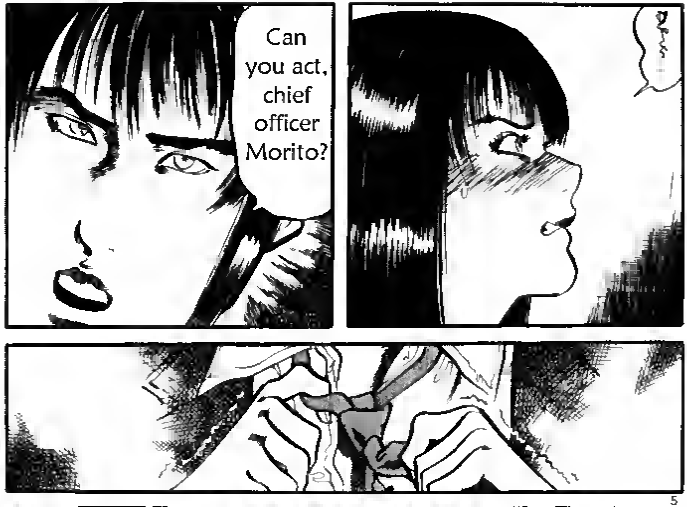

Revenge at last!
Congratulations to ADHD Necromancer, winner of our first-ever lulz contest!
Thanks to everyone else!

Defense.11
夜を駆ける Ⅲ
Night Runners 3



TL: 'She-wen' refers just to him, instead of the whole unit

This trick will only work once; everything depends on your bravery.
Why ... is a woman ...?
Should you die, we will die, too ...
If you show them recoil or fear, the enemy will realize your intentions.


Can you act, chief officer Morito?
ガクン…

5

When this is over ...
ニュル〜
I'll definitely apprehend you, Tate Karito.

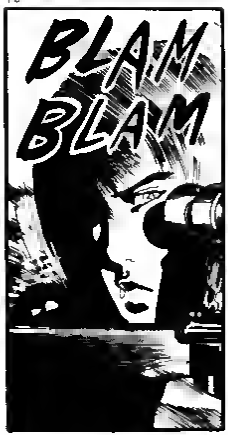
6

ドッカー

Ae-
gis
...!
Ch!

She-wen's been killed!
ウォーン
Pro-tec-tor!
ウオーン
Turn back!

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM


BLAM
BLAM

Wa-
ah!
Ah!

?
You ... killed ...?!
They had bullet-proof jackets and helmets, so they wouldn't have died from this level.
I appreciate you efforts in this matter, Aegis.
チャ!
The only thing I won't do is kill ...

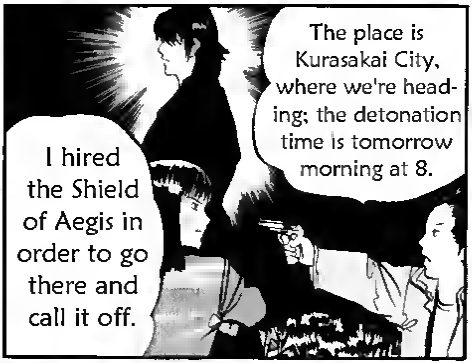
.....
I won't let you do that, Detective-san.
チャ!
But the time for fun is at an end, so I'll be arresting you.
12
I'll promise, without fail, to surrender in your district another day, in the future.
I'm begging you, overlook this. There's no way I'll accept being forced to stay here and now.

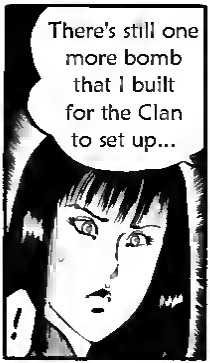
.....
Don't fuck with me! You think I can trust the words of a bomber?!
That detonation was not my intent; I was framed!
My bomb that killed the girl you cared for ...
13
At the time, I received a communication that the transaction had gone well...
What ?!

I sent the timer's cancellation signal in order to stop the bomb.
The code that I myself had created as the cancellation signal had been changed to the explosion trigger
But someone had replaced the program

TL: 'Redeem' is my way of paraphrasing a ridiculously dead word, from the era of the red light district if you couldn't pay back your original purchase price as a prostitute you couldn't ever be free. Regardless of who ended up paying it, it was your ticket out to pay your ransom and buy your redemption, your freedom

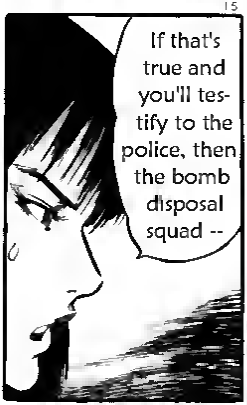
They saw through my intention to try to 'redeem' myself and played a little trick ...
The people who changed the code are those Clan guys.


I hired the Shield of Aegis in order to go there and call it off.
The place is Kurasakai City, where we're heading; the detonation time is tomorrow morning at 8.



15

I prepared a multi-stage trap; it was my greatest "masterpiece"!
Do you think it's the same as something the police's disposal squad could dismantle?!



Ma-shi-ma ...
The moment you pull that trigger, your contract with me is annulled.
I'm the master of no-thing-ness.
I'm a person who steals people's lives without feeling any emotion. If you continue to get in my way, I'll pull this trigger.
If you can't abide by my rule, I'll disappear from here alone.
I do not kill, nor do I assist in eventual killing.
.....
Nnnn

D-don't just keep talking as you please! You bastards are--
チャ!
!!
You should accompany us.

If you can't accept this condition ...
I'll eliminate you with my full power!

If you don't want to let us get away that badly, chief officer Morito ...
come along with us.
ス...

ブワ…
……
I will ... oppose you ...

ブオ
ブオオ
Yeah... you can arrest me or whatever you want.
After you defuse that bomb... you understand, right?

ファオ……
ファオン
ファオン
ファオン
ファオン
ファオン
ファオン

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Translator: Natsume Rika

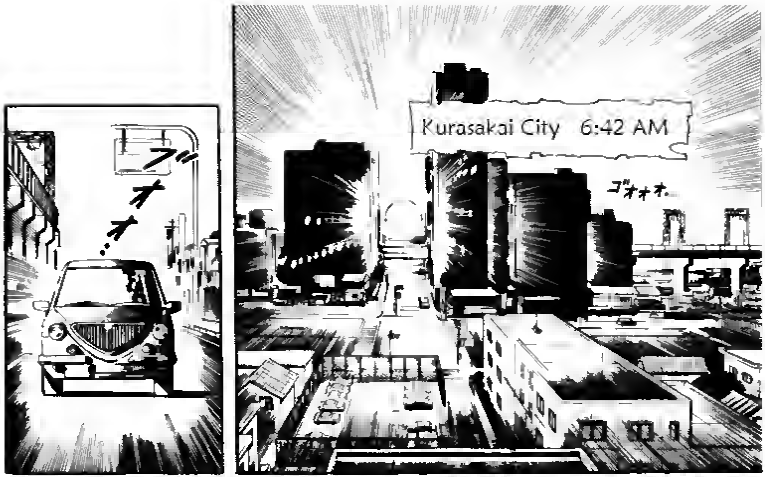
Raws: Dante Julius

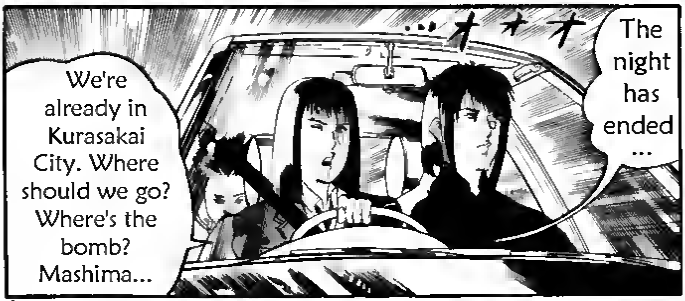
Project Leader: Rainn Aron

Cleaner/Typesetter: Pom Rania

Aloha
!!
……

Defense.12
夜を駆ける Ⅳ
——Night Runners 4—

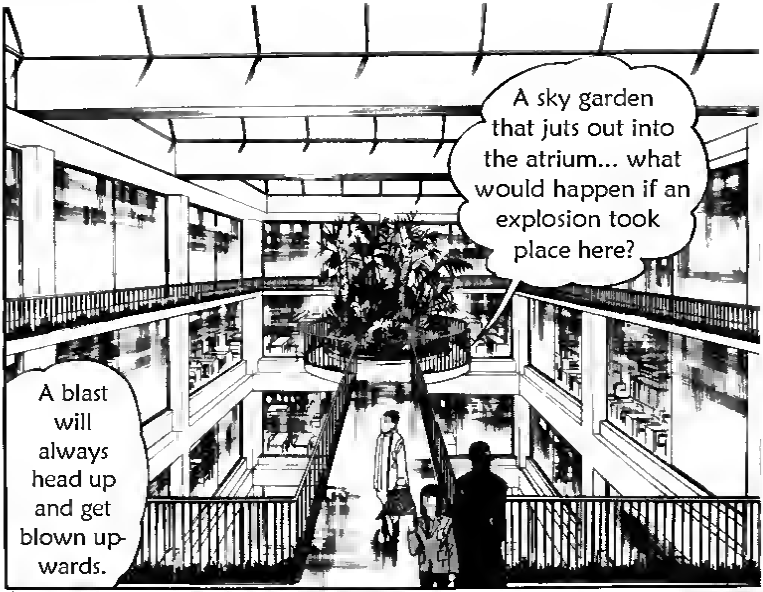

ブォォ…
Kurasakai City 6:42 AM
ゴォォォ…

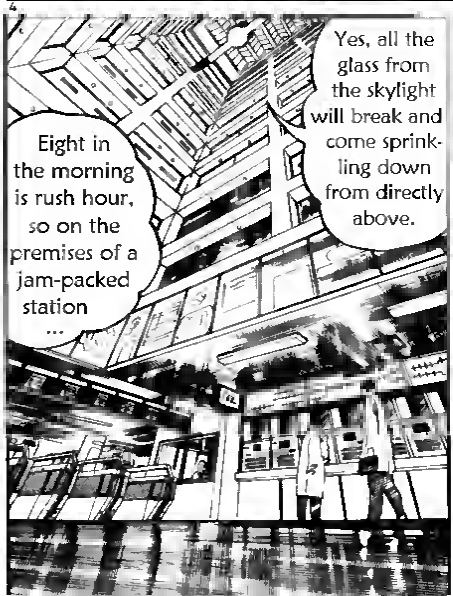

…オォォ
The night has ended …
We're already in Kurasakai City. Where should we go? Where's the bomb? Mashima...

2

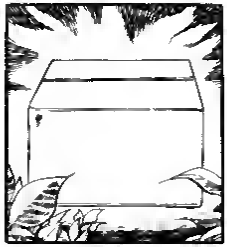
ハァ…
In the heart of Kurasakai City... in Kurasakai Station's brand new station building.

ゴオオオ…
ガー…
タタ…


A sky garden that juts out into the atrium... what would happen if an explosion took place here?
A blast will always head up and get blown upwards.

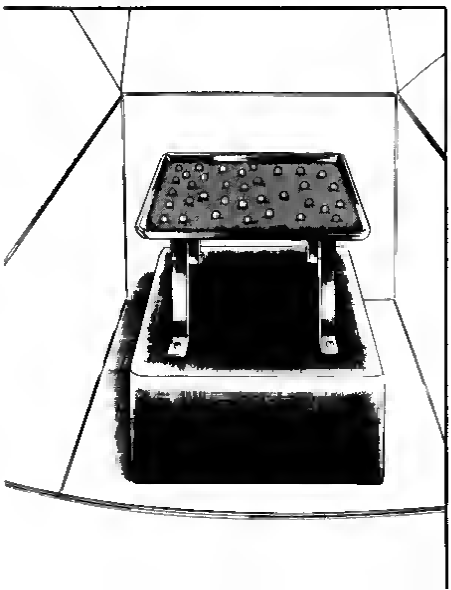

Eight in the morning is rush hour, so on the premises of a jam-packed station ...
Yes, all the glass from the skylight will break and come sprinkling down from directly above.

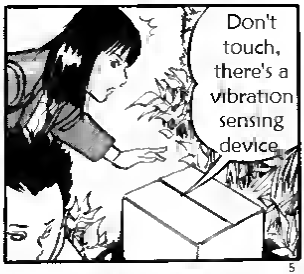
A skylight, huh.

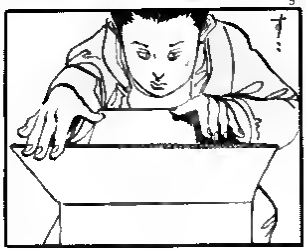


カチャ

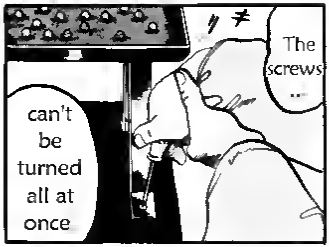
The Clan's target is the railroad company
The plan is to first cause a large disaster and then, after that, hint at a second and third explosion, terrorizing them.

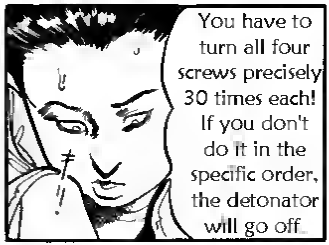



Don't touch, there's a vibration sensing device

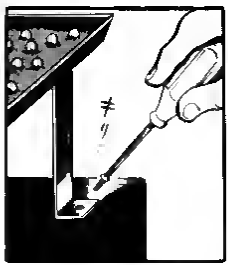

す…

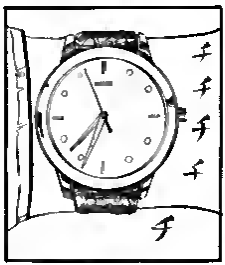
"Spirid-onova's cocoa", huh.
It's my specially-made vibration-sensing device.
What is this? Pachinko balls... and what about this fine powder?
By just inadvert-antly moving the box a few milli-meters...
Yes, it's a chemical sub-stance more sensitive than nitro-glycerin.
and the real bomb ignites.
it pressur-izes the "cocoa" spread all over and causes small explosions


The screws ...
can't be turned all at once

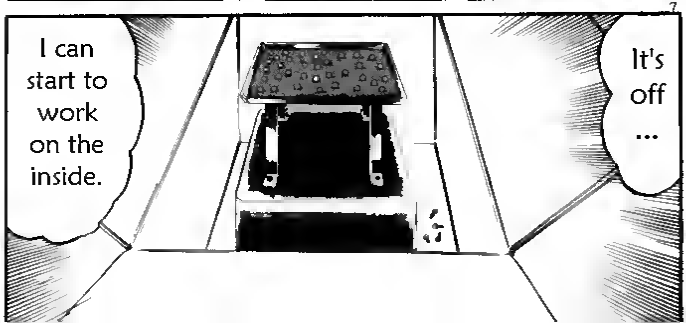

You have to turn all four screws precisely 30 times each! If you don't do it in the specific order, the detonator will go off.

チチチチチチチ…

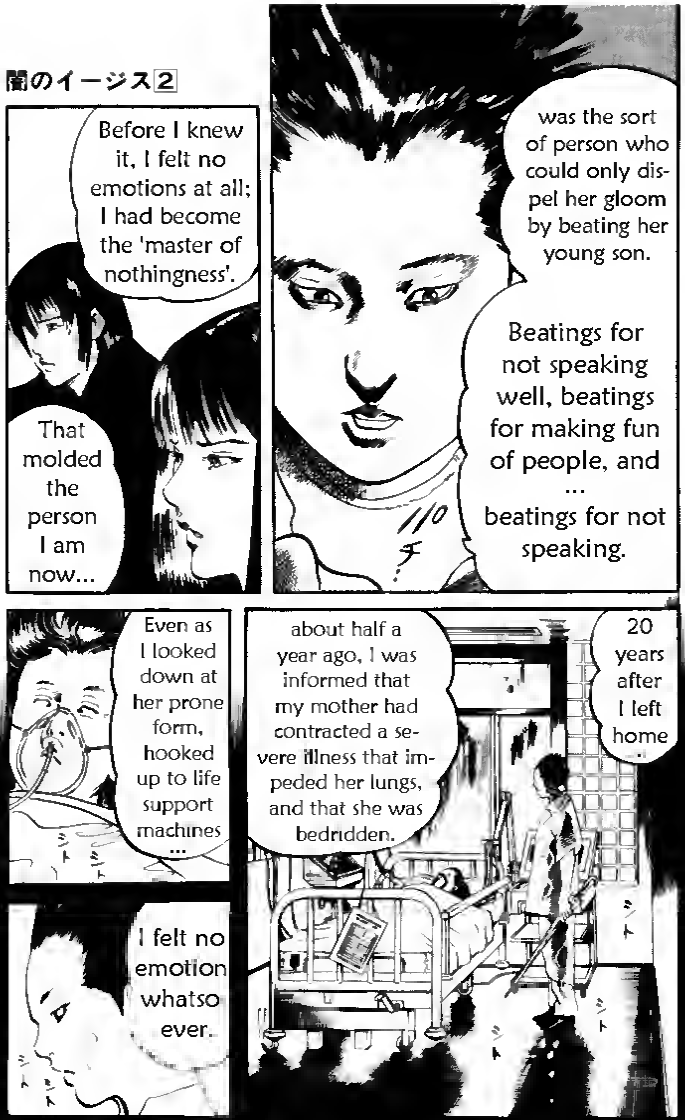


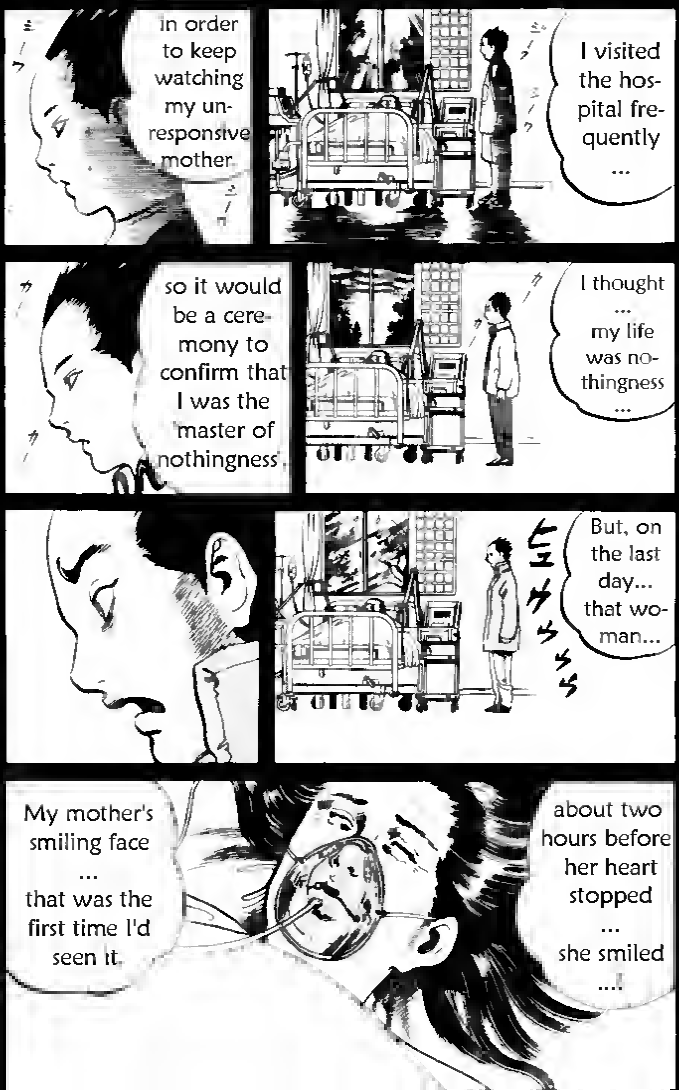

チチチチ
チ

チ!

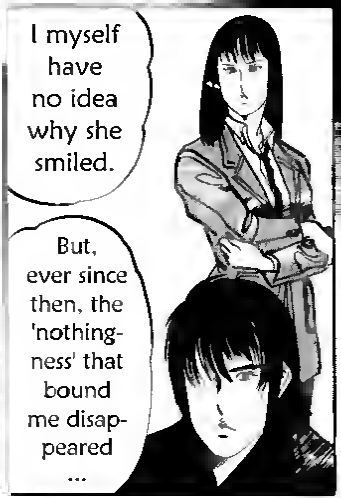

I can start to work on the inside.
It's off ...

カシ
ッ
Aegis... my contract with you is until 8 o'clock.
If you don't think I can manage the disassembly in time... it's no problem if you leave.
I'll be here until 8, in accordance with the contract
You promised I could arrest the two of you together.
So you'll definitely do it for us.
8
My mother ...
ピ
ピ
ピ!!

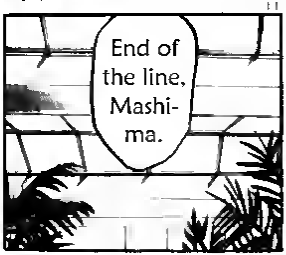

was the sort of person who could only dispel her gloom by beating her young son.
Beatings for not speaking well, beatings for making fun of people, and ... beatings for not speaking.
Before I knew it, I felt no emotions at all; I had become the 'master of nothingness'.
That molded the person I am now...
20 years after I left home ...
about half a year ago, I was informed that my mother had contracted a severe illness that impeded her lungs, and that she was bedridden.
Even as I looked down at her prone form, hooked up to life support machines ...
I felt no emotion whatso ever.


in order to keep watching my unresponsive mother
I visited the hospital frequently ...
so it would be a ceremony to confirm that I was the 'master of nothingness'
I thought ... my life was nothingness ...
But, on the last day... that woman...
My mother's smiling face ... that was the first time I'd seen it
about two hours before her heart stopped ... she smiled ....

This box could no longer put up with... all my 'nothingness' jammed into it.
I... became unable to exist without feeling some sort of emotion from my bombs...


I myself have no idea why she smiled.
But, ever since then, the 'nothingness' that bound me disappeared ...

That's why ...

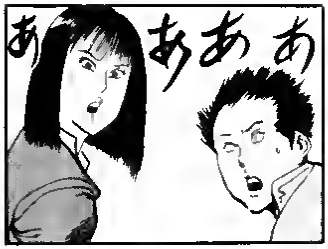

End of the line, Mashima.

She-wen ...!
.....
What I'm aiming at is the bomb itself.
ス!
Tch... just a bit more and...
But, can it stop shots fired within a sixty centimetre diameter?
Aegis! I know all about your artificial arm!

ピッ
Die
!!
ガ!!

ポス
14

Ack!
Uaagh, son of a bitch!
15
Don't shoot! You'll die!


あ
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ガラ
Damn fool ...

K

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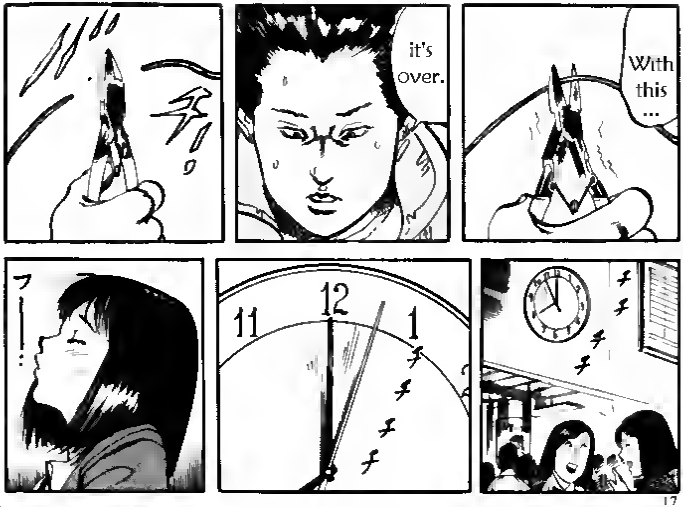
it's over.
With this ...
11
12
1

The long night
...
had finally ended.

You released him?!
Why did you do that?!
You can't request an arrest warrant for a man who's not of this world.
Five years ago, a report of the death of the man known as Tate Karito was published.
Bear in mind your situation, chief officer Morito.
The fact that there is a territory you cannot come in contact with.
This time, based on the additional counsel of the people here seated, it has been decided that your running alone will be overlooked

Why did the police's upper division cover for you?!
Is this... the reason you have never been charged with a crime until now...

You can come at any time, Detective Morito.
This isn't the end.
Tate Karito, as long as you guard criminals ... you are my target!
20

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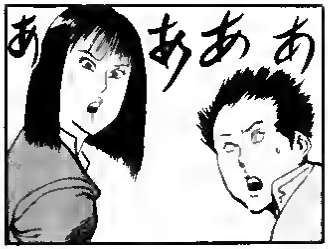
Translator: Natsume Rika

Raws: Dante Julius

Project Leader: Rainn Aron

Cleaner/Typesetter: Pom Rania


あ
あああ

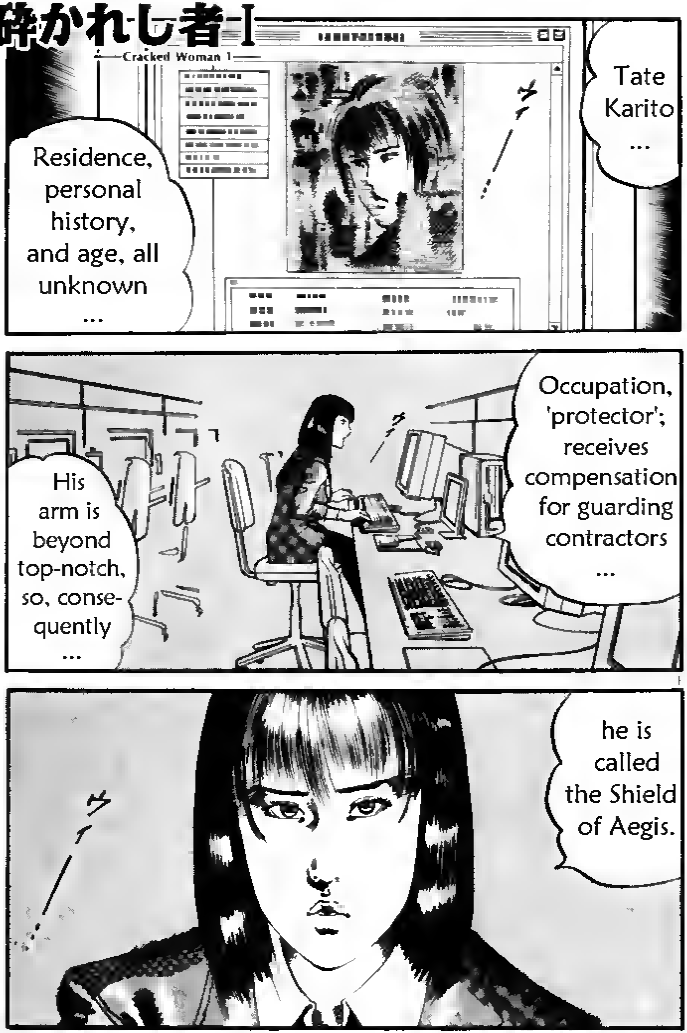
バカヤロー
I told them we needed better railings.

KI

あ
あああ
あ
あああ

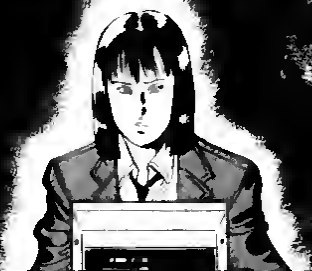
Defense.13

砕かれし者 I

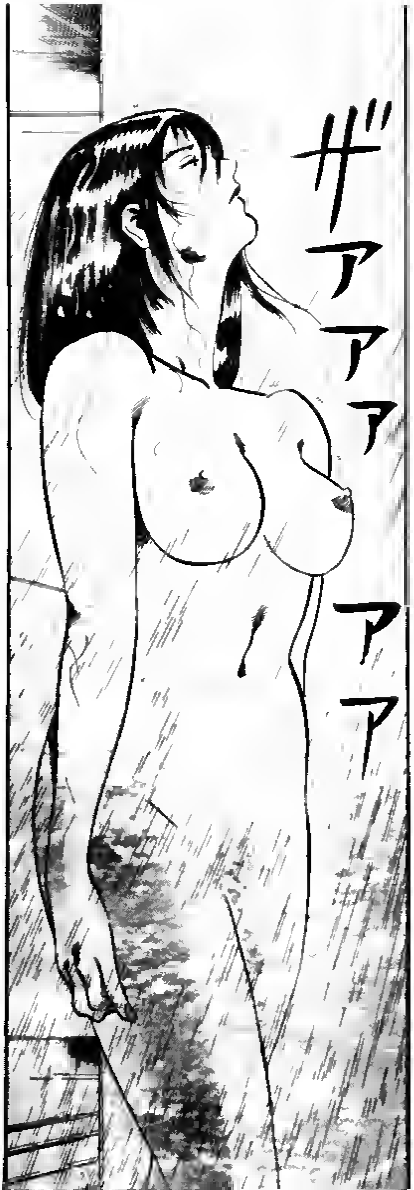

—Cracked Woman 1—
Residence, personal history, and age, all unknown ...
Tate Karito ...
His arm is beyond top-notch, so, consequently ...
Occupation, 'protector'; receives compensation for guarding contractors ...
he is called the Shield of Aegis.

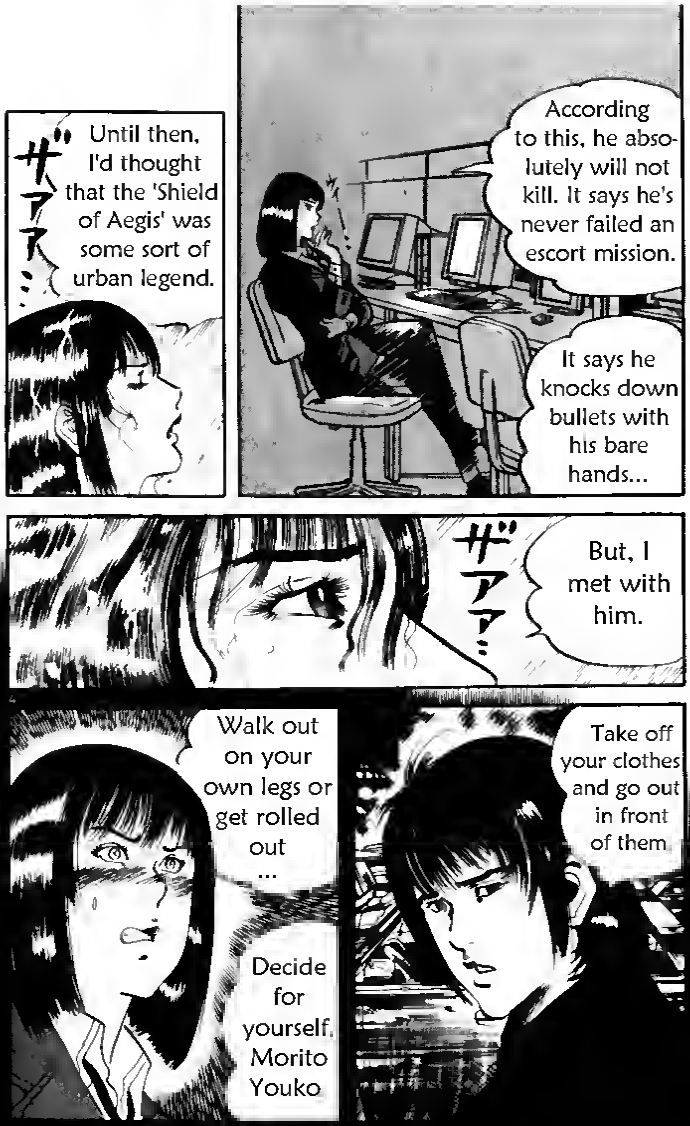
Aegisイージス（アイギス）
From Greek mythology, the shield carried by the goddess Athena. The head of the witch Medusa, who was slain by Perseus, is embedded in the centre and it was said that, no matter the enemy's strength, this took it away

Defense.13
砕かれし者 I
—Cracked Woman 1—



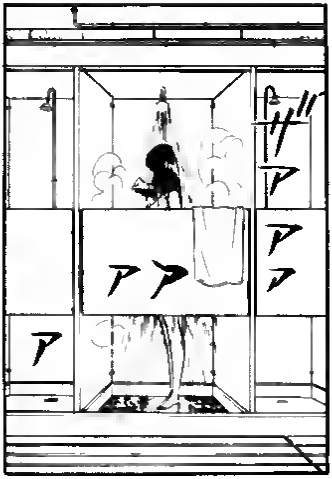
The information that's been collected regarding Tate Karito is all hearsay ...
ガアア

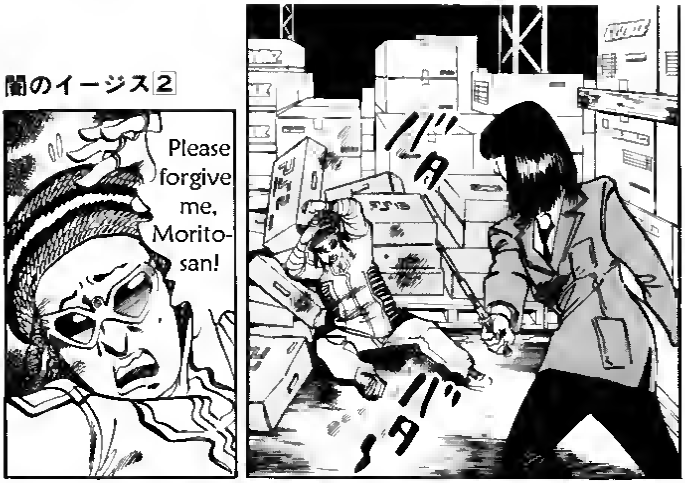

ガアアアア


Until then, I'd thought that the 'Shield of Aegis' was some sort of urban legend.
ザアア
According to this, he absolutely will not kill. It says he's never failed an escort mission.
It says he knocks down bullets with his bare hands...
But, I met with him.
ザアア
Walk out on your own legs or get rolled out ...
Decide for yourself, Morito Youko
Take off your clothes and go out in front of them

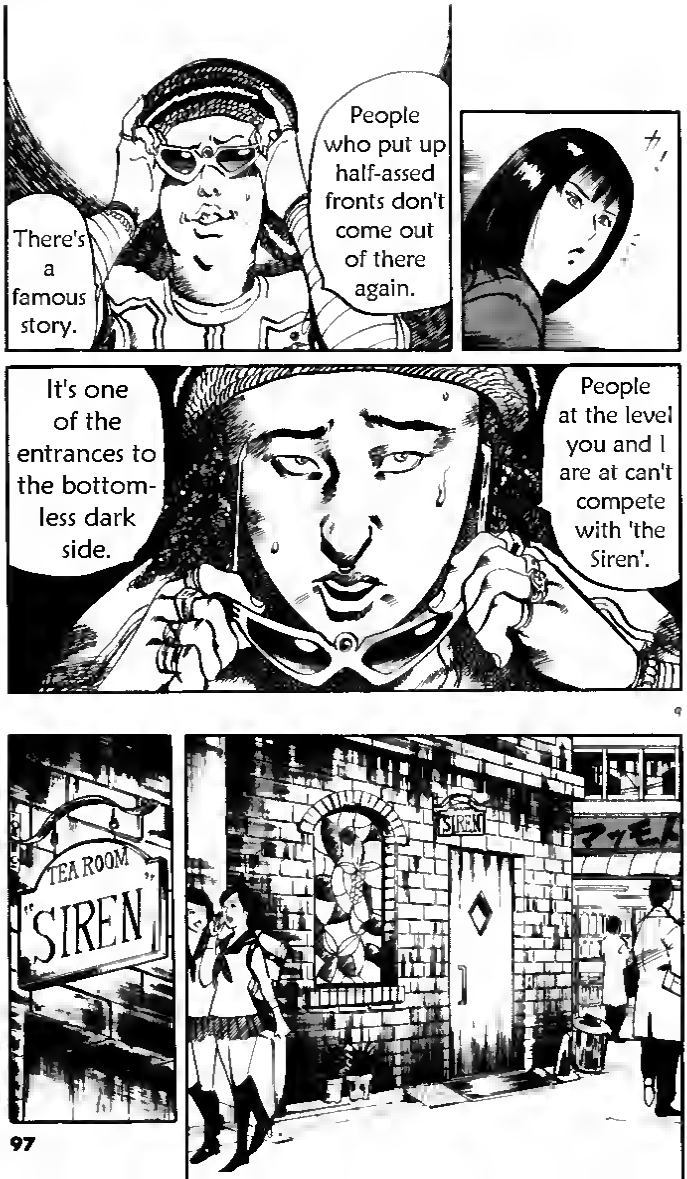
ガアア…
The man known as Tate Karito died five years ago. You can't request an arrest warrant for a dead person.
Please bear in mind your situation. The fact that there is a territory you cannot come in contact with.

I'll show you, Tate Karito... I'll get my hands on your true character ...




Please forgive me, Morito-san!
I thought I told you, Ryuu, the next time I caught you selling stolen goods in my jurisdiction I'd not go so easy on you!
There's a rumour spreading that you've got something; give me that info!
W-what should ... I do ...

That much is really dangerous, Morito-san!
Wait! That's dangerous!
What's dangerous is your current situation, wouldn't you say?
The phone number to contact the agent for the Shield of Aegis.
Morito-san, if you're going to contact 'the Siren', please be careful.


There's a famous story.
People who put up half-assed fronts don't come out of there again.
It's one of the entrances to the bottom-less dark side.
People at the level you and I are at can't compete with 'the Siren'.
TEA ROOM "SIREN"
SIREN

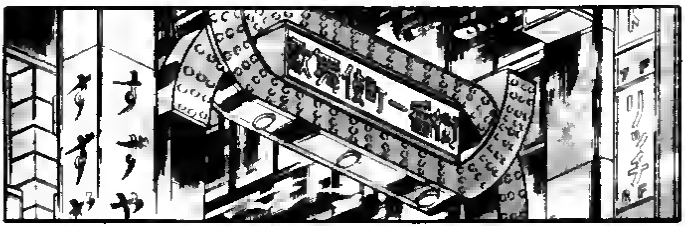
Kanda Yumi-sama, I presume ...
The master awaits you.
'The Siren' is one of this town's entrances to the bottomless dark side ...

カ!
My name
is Anna Riddle.
A child ...?

Morito Youko-san.
Answer the riddle.
Although I was red yesterday, today I'm white and tomorrow I will be black. What am I?
Rank is police sergeant, age is 26.
South Shinjuku station's community safety bureau.
Wh?!
12
Please take your leave... Kanda Yumi-sama.
If you cannot answer the riddle, go home!
You've already used an alias and put me in a foul mood, police sergeant Morito!

Do you think there's any sort of answer to that riddle just now?
Was that all right? Anna-sama... In my opinion, that woman was...
It's fine.

Sign: Kabuki Town First Street 13



14
Wait! Pro-tector!
Tate Karito ...?!

He came this far ...

Shit, did I lose him?

ヒタ..

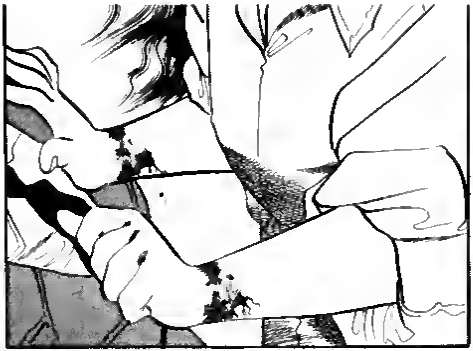
ヒタ ヒタ
ヒタ ヒタ

ヒタ..
ヒタ

Please, help me ...

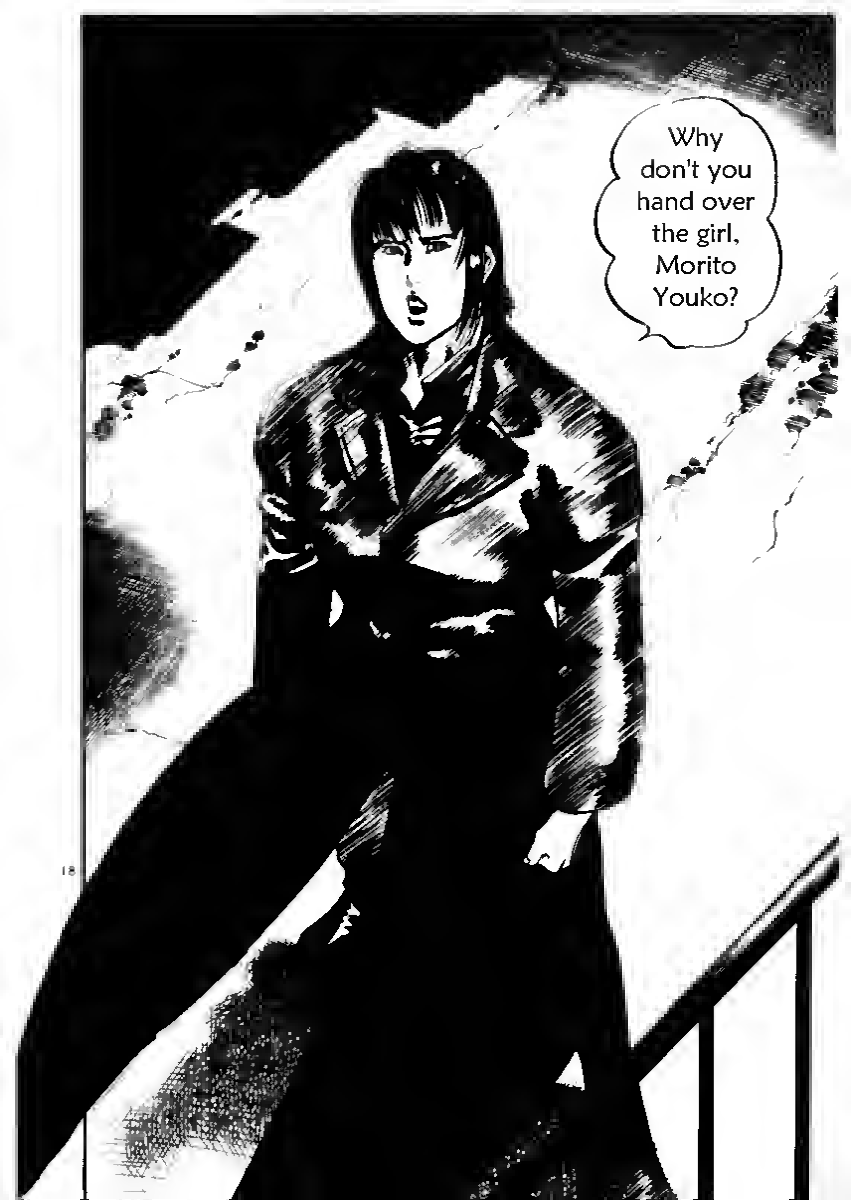
What's wrong?
Are you okay?

Please, help me ...
I've been imprisoned for so long... I finally managed to escape. Please...



Help me! Take me away from here!
Before that man comes back ...!

That man ...?


Why don't you hand over the girl, Morito Youko?

It's him ...! This is the man who imprisoned me ...!
ヒク
19

What are your intentions?!
Aegis !!
Karito ...
you bastard ...

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Translator: Natsume Rika

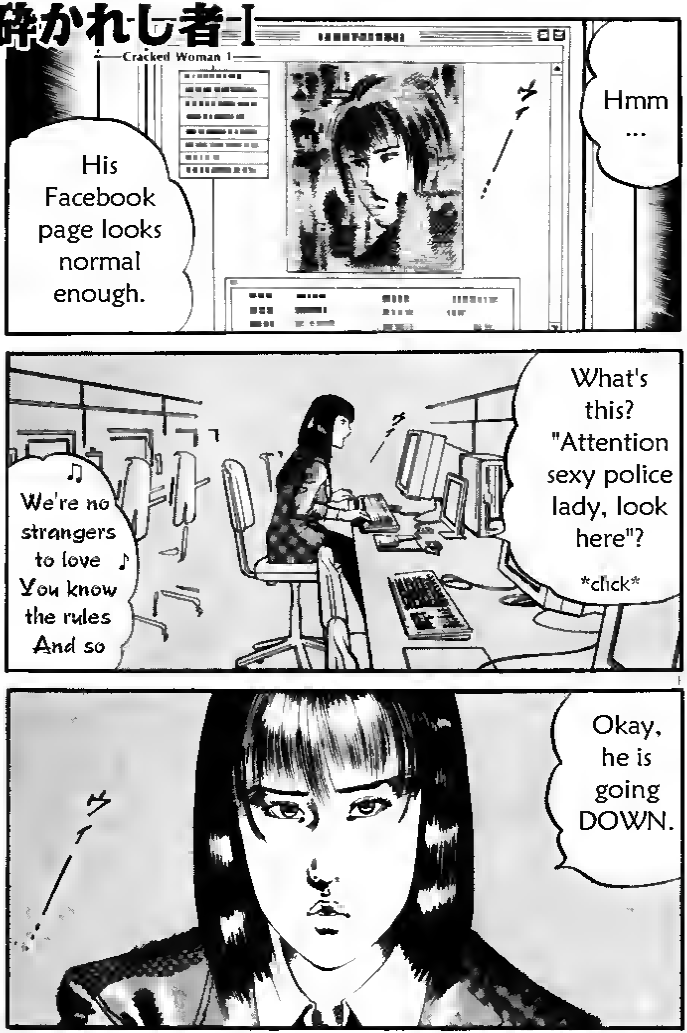
Raws: Dante Julius

Project Leader: Rainn Aron

Cleaner/Typesetter: Pom Rania

Defense.13

砕かれし者 I


Cracked Woman 1
Hmm ...
His Facebook page looks normal enough.
What's this? "Attention sexy police lady, look here"?
click
♫ We're no strangers to love ♪ You know the rules And so
Okay, he is going DOWN.

ジャキーン
Defense.14
砕かれし者.II
Cracked Woman 2
What did you ... do to this girl ...
Ah ... ah.
Tate Kari-to ...
you bas-tard!
カン

Defense.14
砕かれし者 II
Cracked Woman 2

I said hand over my meds, didn't I--! Rotten &#%! asshole!
My medicine
Please give me the medicine
I can't do this any more
I can't stand this
3

You
...
This girl is my guard target.
Disap-pear.

If it hurts, I'll stop tying you up.
Please ... I can't take it any more ... please give me my medicine ...
I can't; it's my client's wish.
No matter how much you suffer, I am not to give you the medicine even once.
Still here?
Doing this to someone against his or her will is false imprisonment! Who is the client?
Karito... I want to explain why I'm arresting you.

What this girl needs is police protection and medical treatment from a doctor.
The police specifically cannot help her.
I'm Community Safety Bureau. I've seen my share of addicts.
Even though you're curing her symptoms of narcotic addiction, how long do you think this quarantine period will be necessary?
I know ... I know all too well
What would you know of the police?!
But, every time, she was put back where she'd started. By the police themselves!
In the past, this girl was cared for by the police thrice and received treatment at a hospital.

ドドドドド
ガー
ガチャ

ガ"

Mami, babe, we're sad you hired that 'protector' guy and ran away
Heheheh, summer break is so scary, you know, because it changes girls.
Maaamiii deaaar, let's gooo plaaay.
And in one week get addicted to meds ...
Yeah, yeah, obedient female college students like you get abducted and imprisoned by dangerous rape gangs...
Don't make a move on the merchandise, you douchebags.
You're the breadwinner too, Mami girl.
You know we couldn't have forgotten the way you use your tongue, Mami babe.
Mami, baaaby, come on out... cuz your friends aren't mad or nothin', okay...

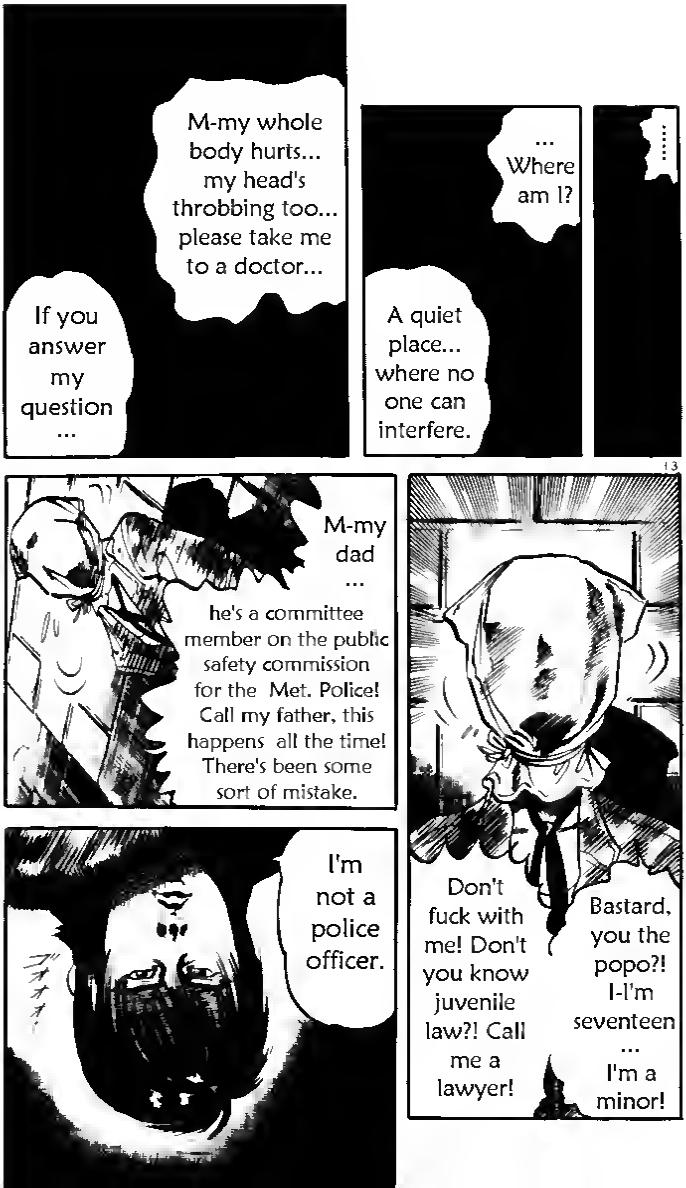
Hey, who's the son of a bitch who keeps coming in girls and made two of 'em get abortions?
Ha-haha, the lead-er.

Mami sweetie, we've come to get you.

BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM

Wasn't the protector supposed to be here?
Hey, she's not here.
We know you're here. You bastard ... who are you?
W-who's there? Who the hell just turned out the lights?!
!
After this, I'm going to haunt your whole night ...

I'm your night-mare ...

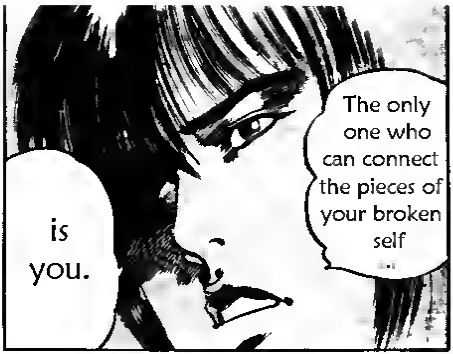

M-my whole body hurts... my head's throbbing too... please take me to a doctor...
If you answer my question ...
... Where am I?
A quiet place... where no one can interfere.
.....
13
M-my dad ... he's a committee member on the public safety commission for the Met. Police! Call my father, this happens all the time! There's been some sort of mistake.
Don't fuck with me! Don't you know juvenile law?! Call me a lawyer!
Bastard, you the popo?! I-I'm seventeen ... I'm a minor!
I'm not a police officer.
フォォ

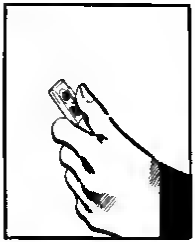
For me, the 'law' does not exist.
I am a ghost that does not exist in this world ...
P-please wait! I'll be elimi-nated!
I have plenty of time ...
Let's talk about your organization's financial sources, its background, and the way you obtain your guns.
14
You don't seem to understand, you're not in a position to make a deal.
L-let's make a deal... I'll tell you about any-thing else you want!
My head feels like it's gonna split, I can't take it...

SFX:
scream

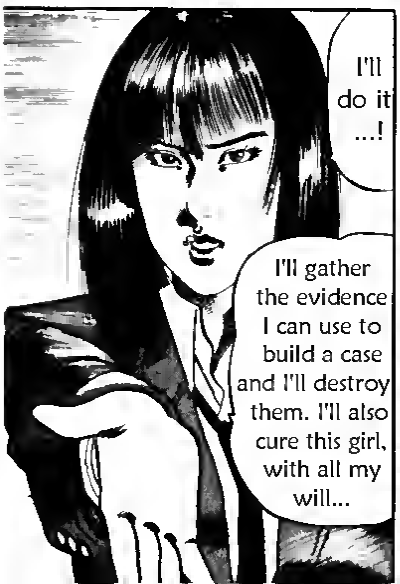
From now on, they'll see the world with eyes that fear the night.
They won't be able to slip into the darkness and creep up on you ever again.

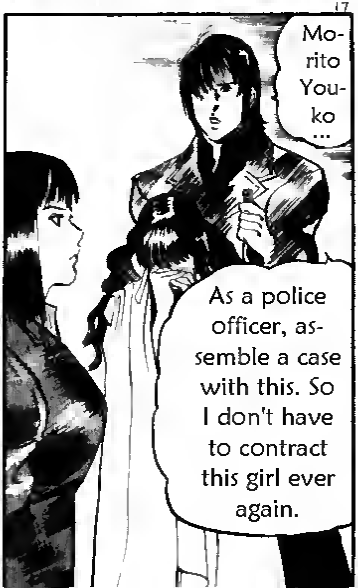
No, not yet.
To recover from your addiction symptoms, a long battle with after-effects awaits you... there will be nothing at all you can rely on.
You... saved... me...?


The only one who can connect the pieces of your broken self ...
is you.



The mission from you is finished. This is good-bye, young lady.


I'll do it ...!
I'll gather the evidence I can use to build a case and I'll destroy them. I'll also cure this girl, with all my will...


Mo-rito You-ko ...
As a police officer, as-semble a case with this. So I don't have to contract this girl ever again.

Wait, Karito!
Why do you do this ... 'protection'?

So I can
connect my own broken fragments.

ゾク…
ガチャ…
19
ズ…
How do you know?
She'll come back, that detective … and soon.

Someone with the same eyes I have ...
Eyes of someone whose heart was stolen by you ...
20
Tate Karito ... could it be ...
that you were a cop?
...

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Translator: Natsume Rika

Raws: Dante Julius

Project Leader: Rainn Aron

Cleaner/Typesetter: Pom Rania

We'll surrender, just keep him away from us ...
He's a monster ...

What, are you dense?
Are you retarded or something? Who the hell do you think I am?
I'm the goddamn Batman.
W-who are you?

Defense.15
灰は灰に… I
—Ashes To Ashes I—

Ashes to ashes ...
Dust to dust ...

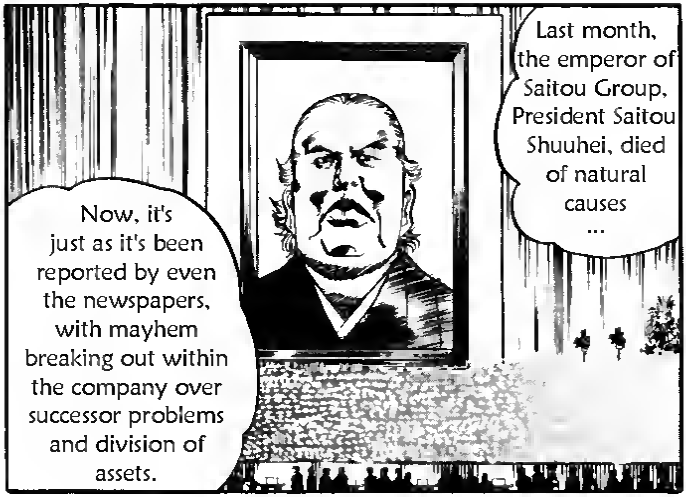
Those born of the earth
return to the earth ...

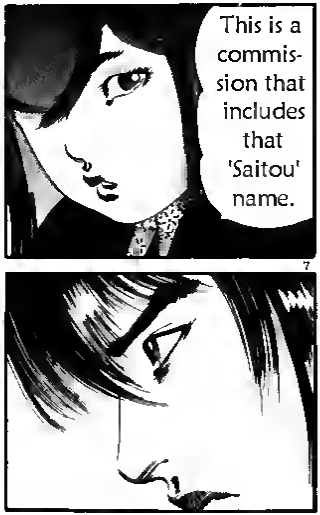
Defense.15
灰は灰に… I
—Ashes To Ashes 1—

You should have made your appointment time one hour earlier.
Zero ...
If so ...
I could have killed you.
If so ...
he could have hired you.
Farewell, protector ...

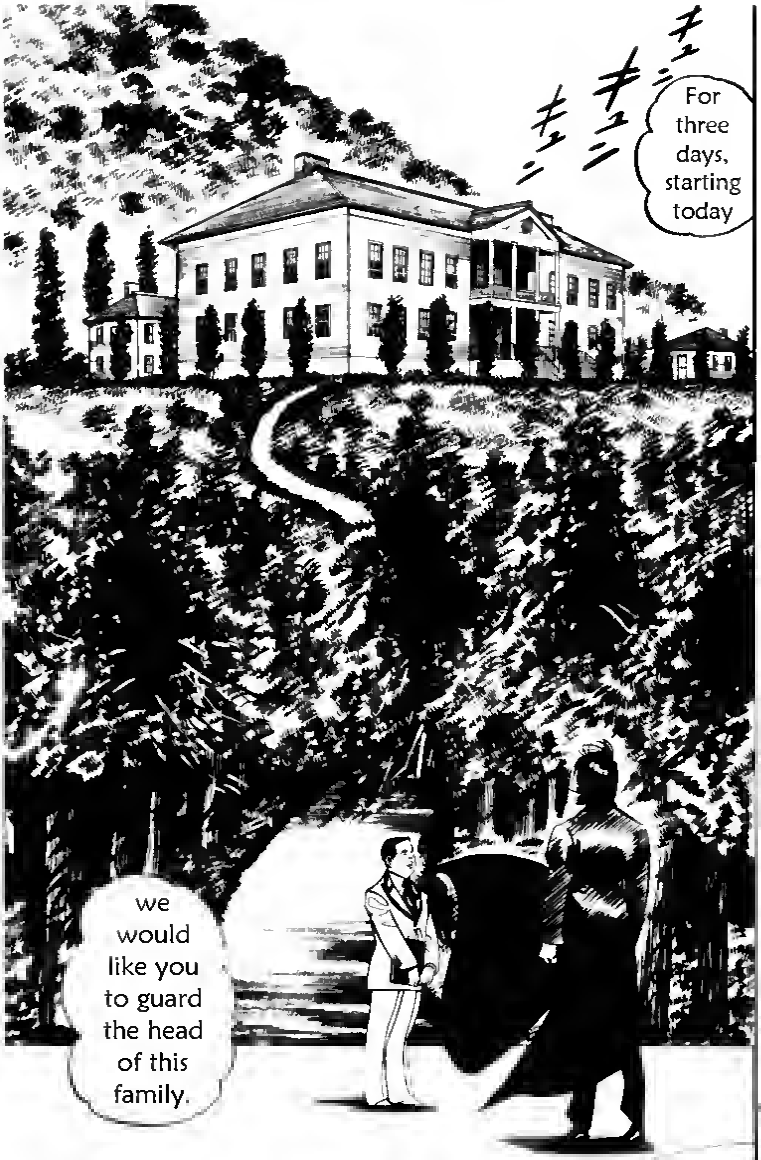
That time, that place, the one who designated them was the client himself.
Every-thing was the fate he himself chose.
TEA ROOM
It's no-thing to worry about, Karito.
Targeted people who survive are exceedingly few.
Zero... the well-known lone wolf professional killer of so-ciety's under-belly.
Karito, can you, who won't kill, stop him?
.....
One bullet that left intra-cerebral residue remade his body into something special ...
An idiosyncrasy that feels no pain, sense of pain is zero. Consequently, he is called Zero ...

One new request has come in.
There is a job.
Just as far as them being one of the top five giant corporate groups domestically ...
Do you know the Saitou Group?
'Saitou' is an empire with gigantic roots attached to Japan's economic world.
Railroads, construction, aircraft, automobiles, department stores... it's said they could remove the cabinet minster's head with just one pinky finger.
SAITO

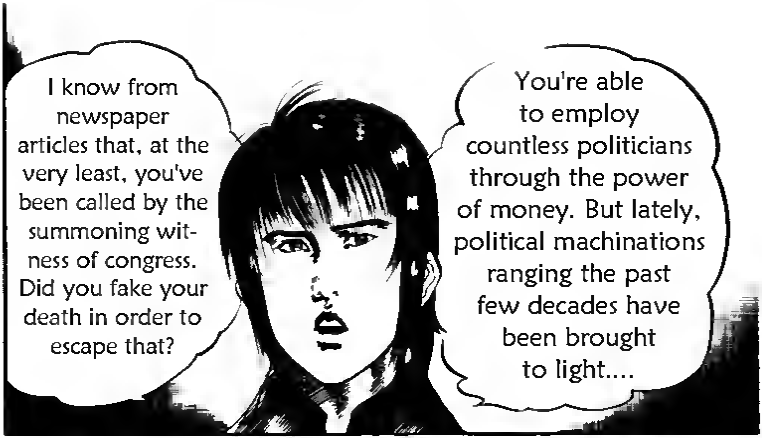

Last month, the emperor of Saitou Group, President Saitou Shuuhei, died of natural causes ...
Now, it's just as it's been reported by even the newspapers, with mayhem breaking out within the company over successor problems and division of assets.


This is a commis-sion that includes that 'Saitou' name.
7

In order to ensure the security of the client's location, we have to maintain absolute secrecy.
Please forgive our rudeness for receiving you in this manner, Tate Karito-sama ...
Let's hear the job details.
キュン
キュン
キュン
キュン

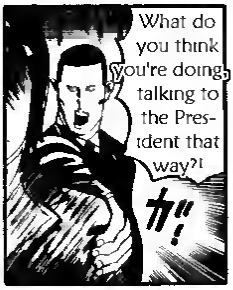

For three days, starting today
we would like you to guard the head of this family.

I'm Saitou Shuu-hei.
Or should I say the former president of Saitou Group, the *late* Saitou Shuuhei ...
How did you know I faked my death?
Aren't you surprised? My obituary notice ran one month ago.

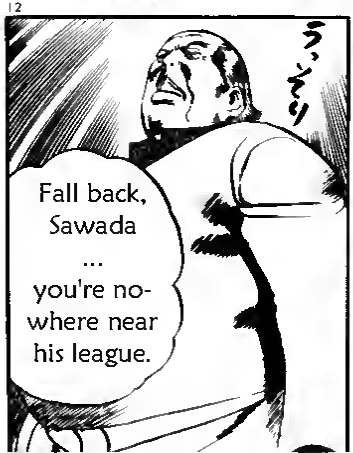

I know from newspaper articles that, at the very least, you've been called by the summoning witness of congress. Did you fake your death in order to escape that?
You're able to employ countless politicians through the power of money. But lately, political machinations ranging the past few decades have been brought to light....

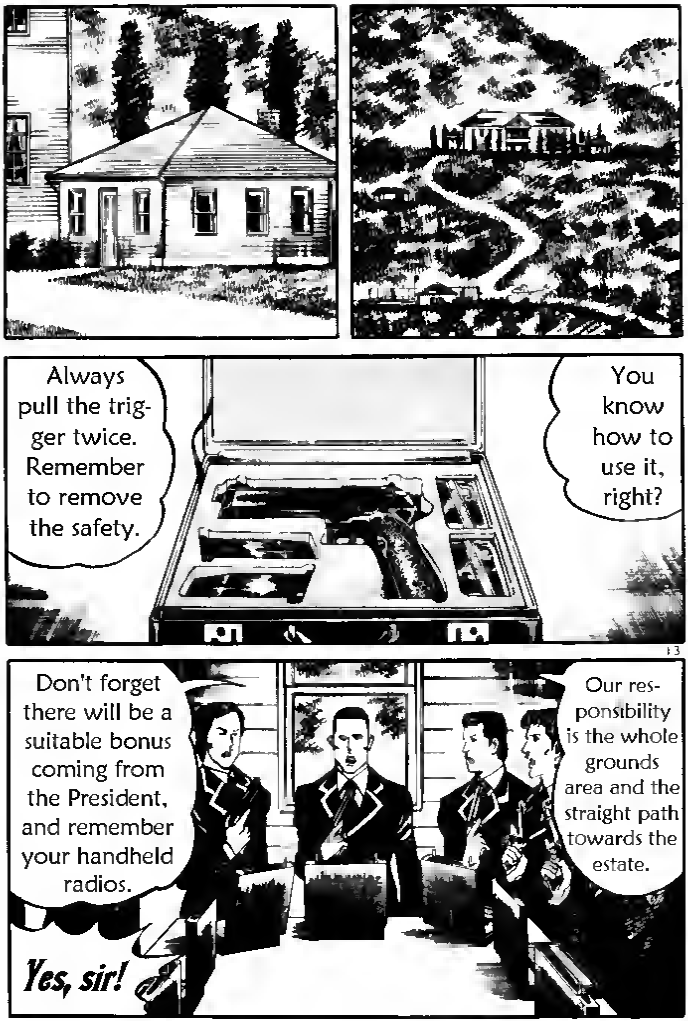
うあっああ!!

ガビ!


What do you think you're doing, talking to the President that way?!
ガ!

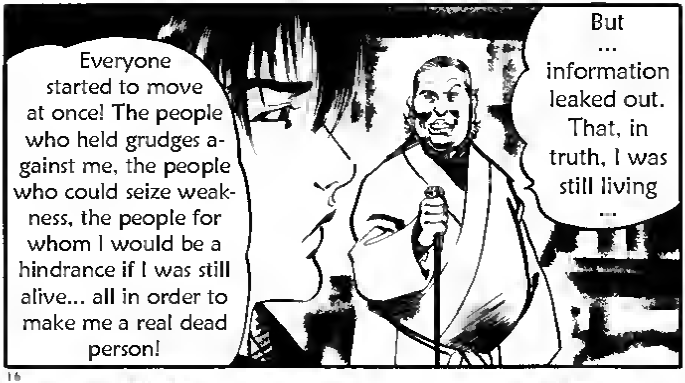
12

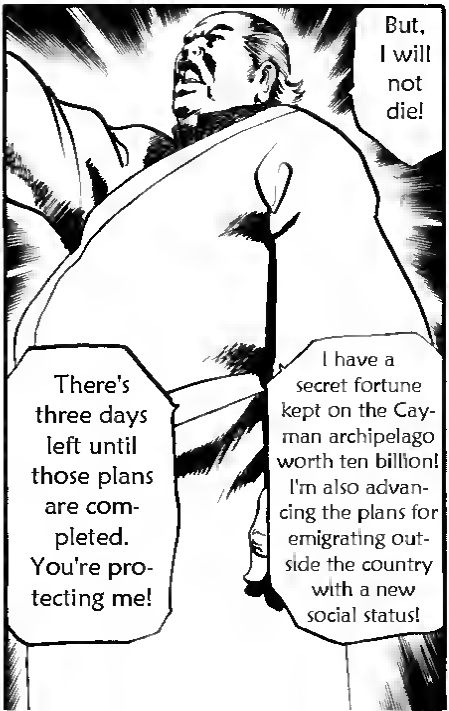

う、そり
Fall back, Sawada ... you're nowhere near his league.


Always pull the trigger twice. Remember to remove the safety.
You know how to use it, right?
13
Don't forget there will be a suitable bonus coming from the President, and remember your handheld radios.
Our responsibility is the whole grounds area and the straight path towards the estate.
Yes, sir!

What? You scared of guns, Kusakabe ...?
N-no.
Ch, the President also hired that punk-ass... must have gone senile.
Enter-prise man-agement is also the same.
Those kinds are the ones I like.
Cap-ture or be cap-tured ...
I like things like games.

Those who stand in my way are mercilessly crushed and come to expand the group.
I also use means that are considered unfair. Money gets saved just with the amount of malice and admiration.
And then... it's tiresome.
So, I died.
When I died and passed the time as a backstage hand, the world exposed a different face.
Those who had normally flattered me, brown-nosing and sucking up to me; the way they all swarmed around my fortune was magnificent...
The life of a dead person is truly interesting!


Everyone started to move at once! The people who held grudges against me, the people who could seize weakness, the people for whom I would be a hindrance if I was still alive... all in order to make me a real dead person!
But ... information leaked out. That, in truth, I was still living ...


But, I will not die!
I have a secret fortune kept on the Cayman archipelago worth ten billion! I'm also advancing the plans for emigrating outside the country with a new social status!
There's three days left until those plans are completed. You're protecting me!

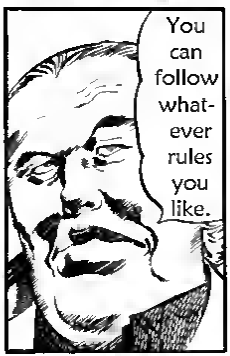
The current me is dead.
Because, even if you kill me, it wouldn't be a crime.

I can't trust the people with connections to Saitou Group.
Why did you hire me?
Even though Sawada was headhunted from the Met. PD, he is after all a Saitou employee.
At any rate, the first to send assassins were my eldest son and second son.
Dependent upon the money, he'd hesitate against my sons; just one of the masses.
Two ?
The two top ranked in the underground society, with the established reputation of never double-crossing once you've been contracted.
So, I hired you.

Under-
ground
society's
best pro-
tector
...
and
under-
ground
society's
best hit-
man
...

Zero
...!

I took the job.
にや〜
The one ... to kill the guy who targeted the old man.


You can follow whatever rules you like.

Before I take the commission, I have something I want to say...
I will not kill ... nor will I assist in murder!

Fa-
ther
...
My
youngest
daughter,
Hijiri.
20
Ye...
es.
Your
flute
eases
my
mind.
Tonight,
after
dinner,
please
play for
me again.
Hijiri...
right now,
the only
one I can
trust is
you.

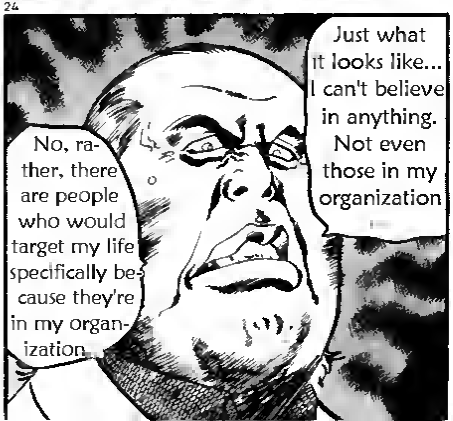
Protect her the same as you would me.
Three days from now, Hijiri will be leaving Japan with me.

BLAM
BLAM
うおお
What are you ...?

ガッ
カタン

!?
Waah, son of a bitch!

24


Just what it looks like... I can't believe in anything. Not even those in my organization
No, rather, there are people who would target my life specifically because they're in my organization

President! What were those gunshots just now?!

Let me go...!
Saitou Shuuhei! It's your fault that my family--
Ashes to ashes ...

Be-
cause
he was
still
alive.
Ze-
ro!
Why
did
you
kill
him
...?!

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X-POSED SCANLATIONS

Translator: Natsume Rika

Raws: Dante Julius

Project Leader: Rainn Aron

Cleaner/Typesetter: Pom Rania

Isn't he cute?
I call him "Fluffy".

WTF

灰は灰に…Ⅱ

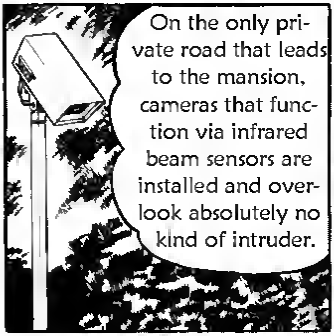
Ashes To Ashes 2

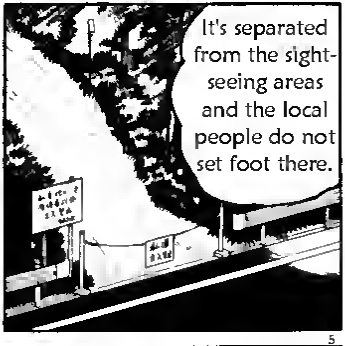
Defense.16
灰は灰に…Ⅱ
—Ashes To Ashes 2—

Saitou Shuuhei ... I'm taking my leave of this dispatch.
I wonder if you can do that?
Former police inspector Tate Karito.
3
If you have the power I do, there's almost no information you can't obtain.
Including the incident from five years ago... and everything about your right arm...
It's also possible for me to broadcast this information to the underground world that you inhabit.

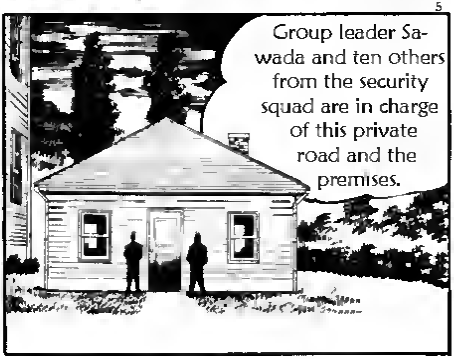
Don't misunderstand, I value you highly.
If there's been a misunderstanding with the agreement about your rules, I apologize. Tell me the requirements for you to stay here.
.....
Ever again!
Do not allow him to kill any person I've debilitated.

This whole mountain is the Saitou family's estate.


On the only private road that leads to the mansion, cameras that function via infrared beam sensors are installed and overlook absolutely no kind of intruder.


It's separated from the sightseeing areas and the local people do not set foot there.

5

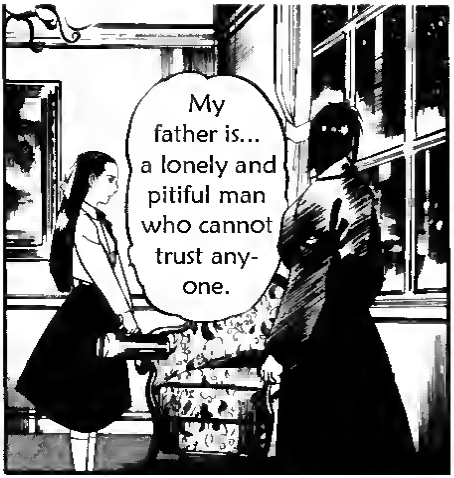

Group leader Sawada and ten others from the security squad are in charge of this private road and the premises.

Please see to the defenses around the Master and young Hijiri-sama.
And within the mansion is you both, Tate-sama, Zero-sama.
Fol-lowing *every* rule ...
Please regard those who trespass with-out permission as attackers and eliminate them.

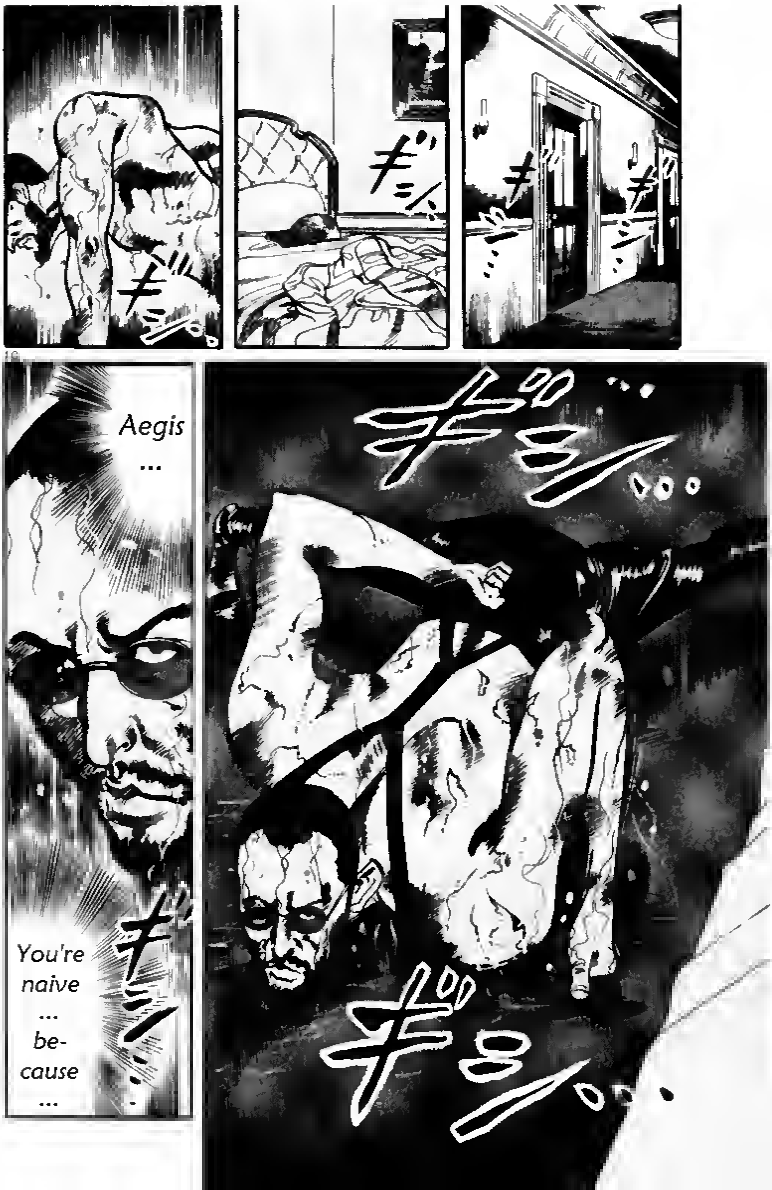
Please forgive my father's rudeness, Tate-san ...
For my father, to amass the Saitou Group in the generation since the chaotic post-war period was ...
Oh ... uh ... uh ...

no ordinary enterprise.
People say it was a war where the shells were money.
That was my father's life.
If he didn't become like a demon in a sea of carnage or something, he couldn't survive.

Please, please protect my father.


My father is... a lonely and pitiful man who cannot trust anyone.

The person your father detests more than anyone else is you.


Aegis
...
You're naive ... be-cause ...

Hi-
jiri
...
this
place
is
...
?
Fa-
ther
...

The only person I trust is you ...
Only you ...
Hi-jiri ...
Hijiri ...!
12
Mama ...
Ma-ma ...!

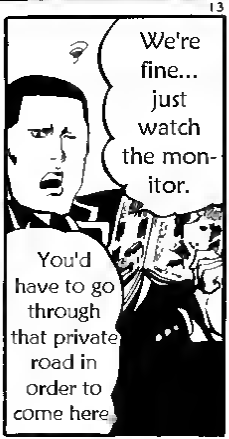
オオオ...

Chief Sawada, we're all right, yeah? Doing the scheduled patrols around the area...
オオオ...

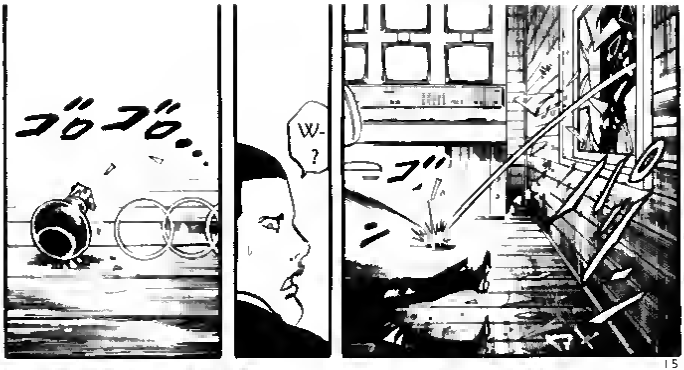
オオオ...

13

Here's an example.
If you came across the middle of the mountains at the north side, you could invade through to here without being caught by that camera...


We're fine... just watch the monitor.
You'd have to go through that private road in order to come here

Listen up, 'kay? You'd have to go around and around the underground Hakonetouge route in order to come out on the north side's slope.
That takes two days; who would do something that tire-some?


ゴゴゴ…
W-?
ゴゴ
ン

ドオオ
オー

ヨ
オオオオオ
オ
オオオ
オ
オ
オ

You said you wouldn't kill, right? You said you wouldn't assist in murder, right?
Do you think that rule of yours will work here?
Protector.
17

This place is a battle-field.

ハスゥ!!
ゴォォォォ…
20
ガガ!

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X-POSED SCANLATIONS

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Lost the 'impassive Tate' act now, have you?
It wasn't much of a meme in the first place, so nobody cares.
.....
For the lulz.
Is there a reason you must be such an UTTER BASTARD?
ふ

Defense:17
灰は灰に…Ⅲ
Ashes To Ashes 3
And that you wouldn't assist in murder..
オ
オ
オ
オ
You said you wouldn't kill, right?
ゴオオオ…
Do you think that rule of yours will apply here?
オ
…オオオ
Pro-tec-tor.
ﾒｷｷ!

Defense 17
灰は灰に…Ⅲ
—Ashes To Ashes 3—

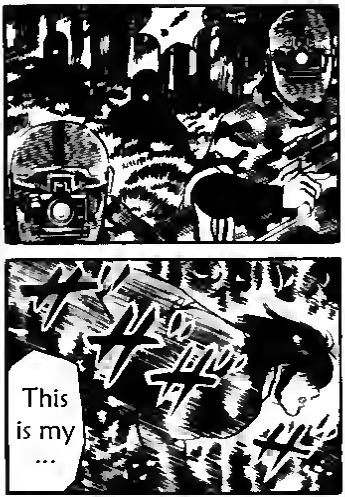
They are com-ing
They are com-ing
ゴオオオ!!

I'm leaving.
Those security guys drop dead and it's impossible to defend the siege of the castle from within.
ゴオオオ
So I don't make you kill, eh?
Fine, do what you want ...

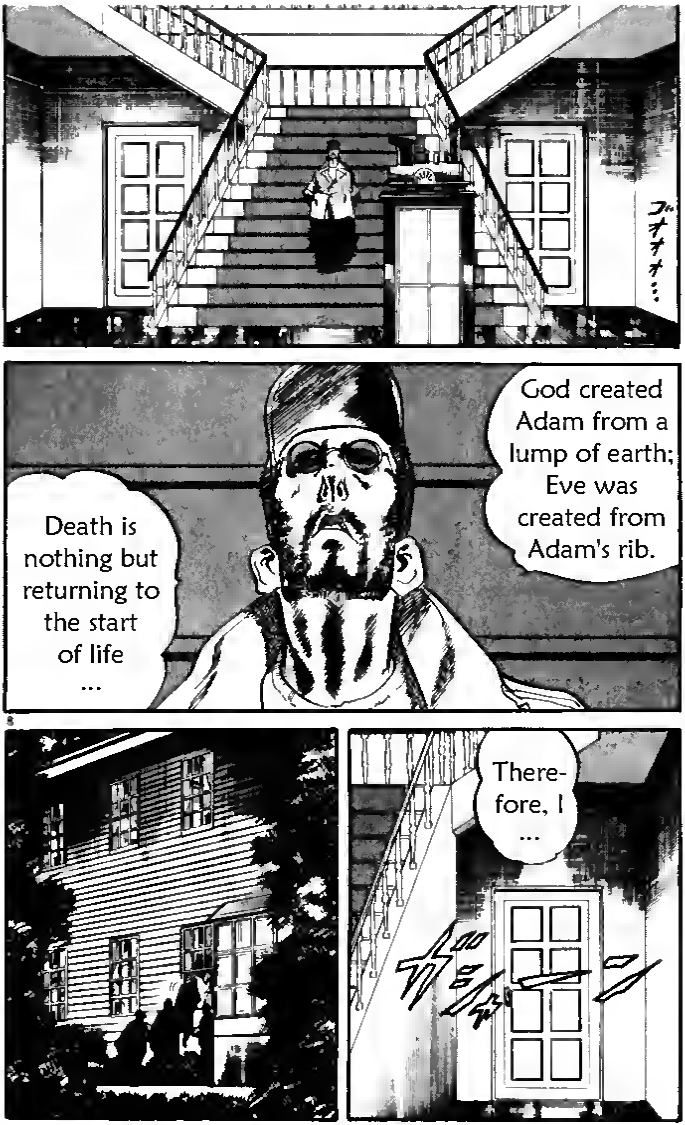
TL: He's referring to a strategy that involves holing yourself up in the area you're defending and fending off attacks from in there

ガッ
ドス
ヒュッ
ヒュッ
ヒュッ

will
not
kill!


This is my ...
I'll break your fangs.

way of fight-ing!

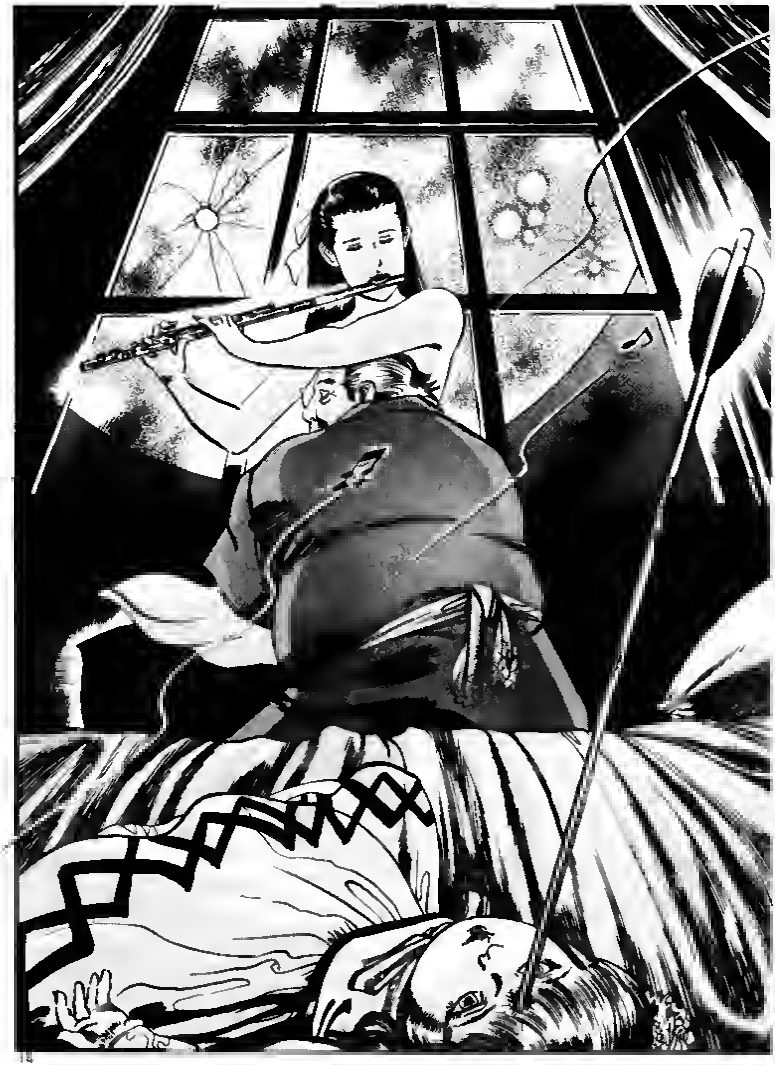

ゴオオオ…
God created Adam from a lump of earth; Eve was created from Adam's rib.
Death is nothing but returning to the start of life …
There-fore, I …

Go!
Fire!
mut-
ter
pray-
ers.

10

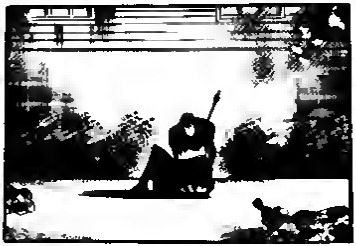
Ashes to ashes ...
Dust to dust ...

ビシ!!
ドゴォ
12
Hijiri ... let me hear your flute.



110ヂ…
110ヂ…

110ヂ…
110ヂ…



Does it hurt, protector?
I'm jealous.
ゴオオ
オオ

It's thanks to him being dead that you can glare at me like that.
Don't forget.

I'll wait for a mission to kill you ...
I won't kill you now.
The mission I took was to kill those targeting Saitou Shuuhei.
ハッハッハッ
18
You guys ...
were hired by Saitou Shuuhei? Heheh ...
What a funny story.
ハッハッハッ

Hijiri, or something like that; she told us to massacre everyone in the mansion ...
Our employer ... is Saitou Shuuhei's daughter ...
If it sounds too good to be true... even though the reason was exceedingly ordinary..
I thought it was strange, that if we succeeded, everyone would get 30 million yen...
What do you mean?
Don't be fooled by her lovely face--
Aren't you going to say it, Zero?!

ザッ
ザッ
Aren't you going to say it to him?!
Ashes to ashes.

ザワ
ザワ
ザワ
ザワ

ザワ
ザワ

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Translator: Natsume Rika

Raws: Dante Julius

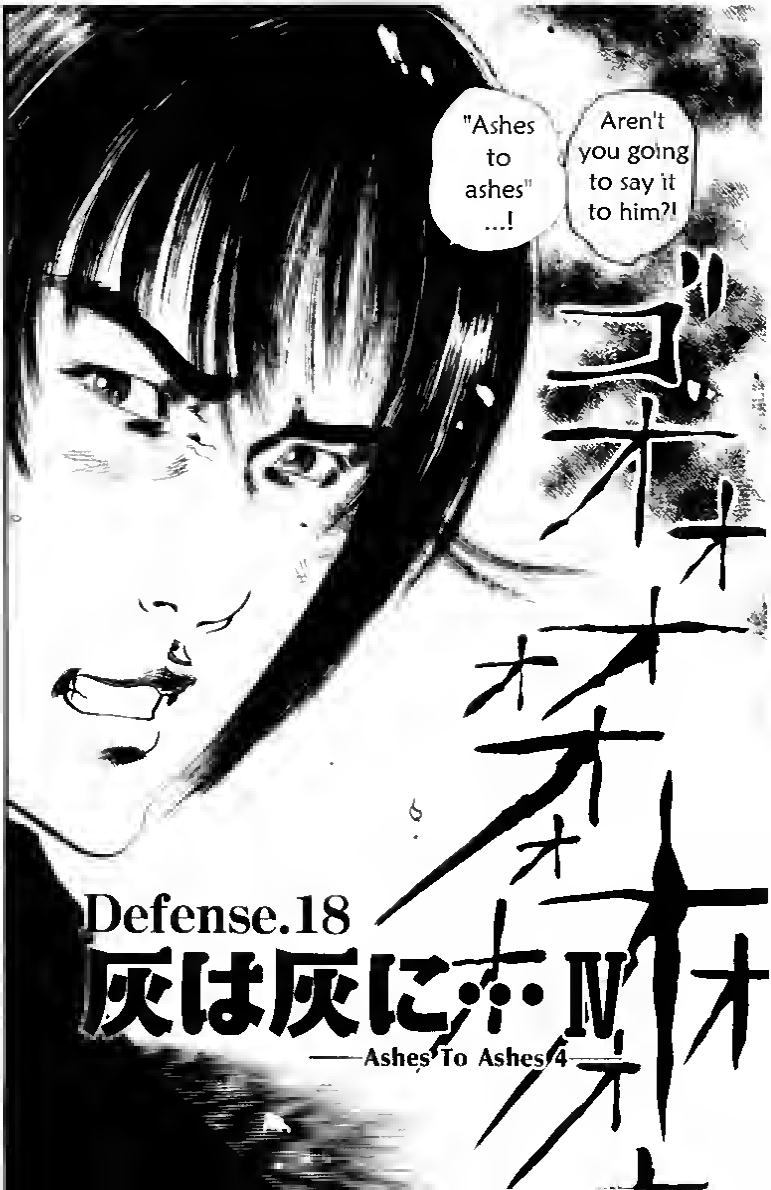
Project Leader: Rainn Aron

Cleaner/Typesetter: Pom Rania

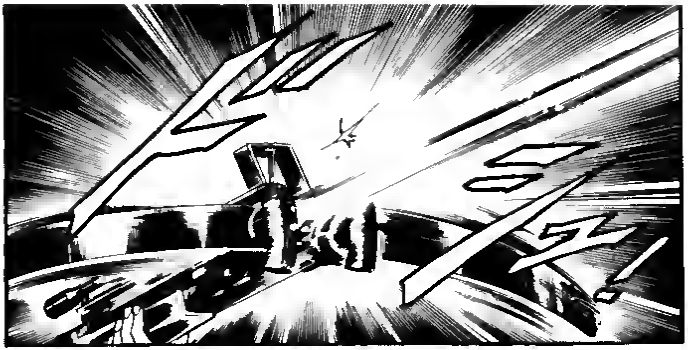
Haven't you guys learned ANY-THING by now?!

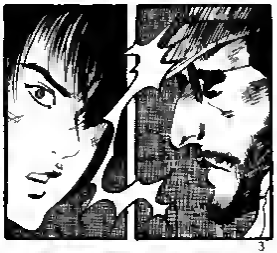
The mission was ... to kill her father ...
Our employer... is Saitou Shuuhei's daughter...! Hijiri, or something like that.
ゴオオォオ・・・
It's ... comical ...
Aren't you going to say it, Zero?
オ・・・
オオオオ
オオオ

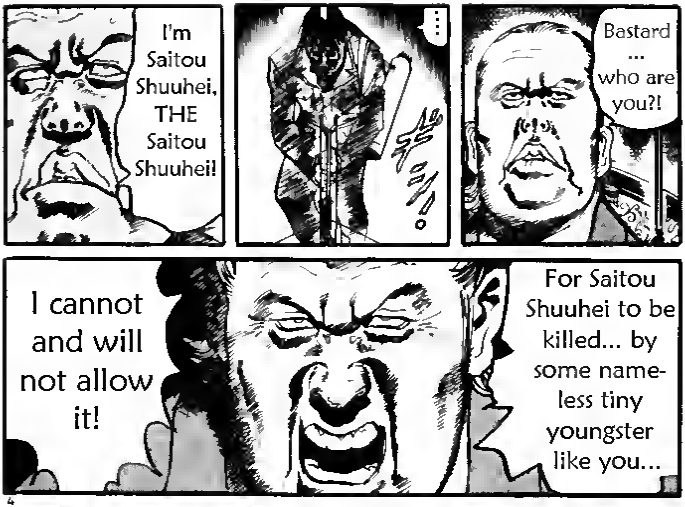
Defense.18
灰は灰に…Ⅳ
—Ashes To Ashes 4—



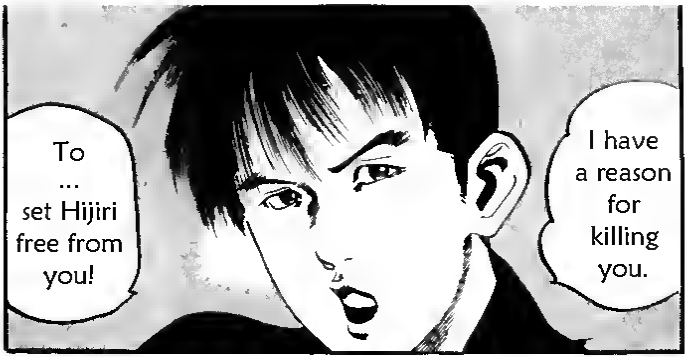
Defense.18
灰は灰に・・Ⅳ
——Ashes To Ashes 4—

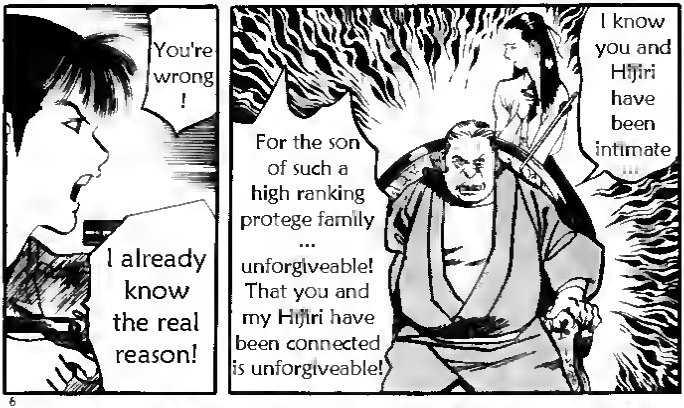


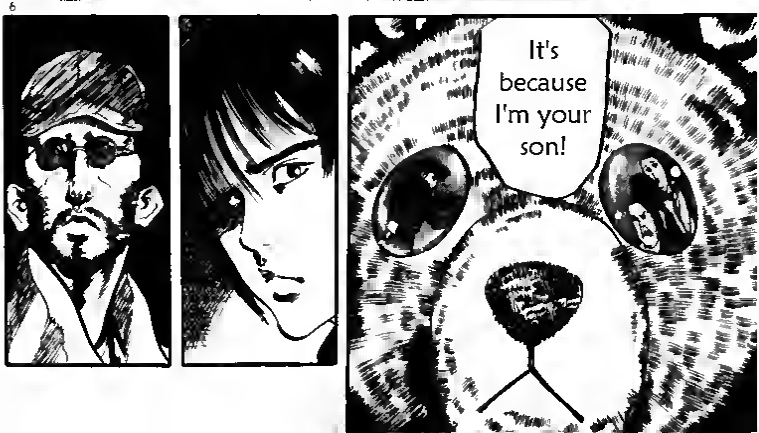


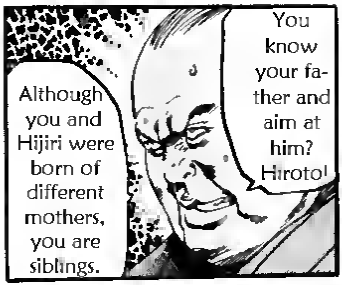

I'm Saitou Shuuhei, THE Saitou Shuuhei!
Bastard ... who are you?!
I cannot and will not allow it!
For Saitou Shuuhei to be killed... by some nameless tiny youngster like you...

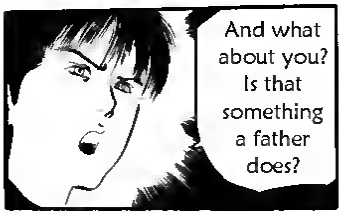
Hiroto ... you're ... Hiroto?!
Hiro ... to ...?
Who helped you get all through college?
Who looked after your family all those years?
Why are you doing this?

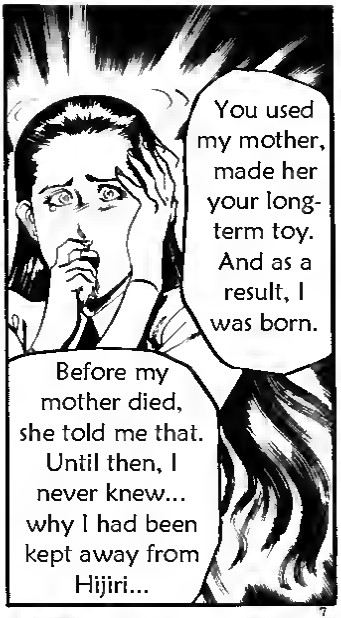

To ... set Hijiri free from you!
I have a reason for killing you.


You're wrong !
I already know the real reason!
For the son of such a high ranking protege family ... unforgiveable! That you and my Hijiri have been connected is unforgiveable!
I know you and Hijiri have been intimate ...

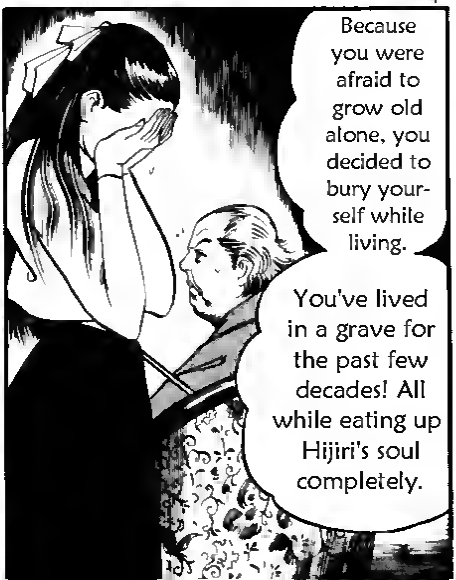

It's because I'm your son!


You know your father and aim at him? Hiroto!
Although you and Hijiri were born of different mothers, you are siblings.


And what about you? Is that something a father does?


You used my mother, made her your long-term toy. And as a result, I was born.
Before my mother died, she told me that. Until then, I never knew... why I had been kept away from Hijiri...

If only you would die
then Hijiri would be liberated.


Because you were afraid to grow old alone, you decided to bury yourself while living.
You've lived in a grave for the past few decades! All while eating up Hijiri's soul completely.

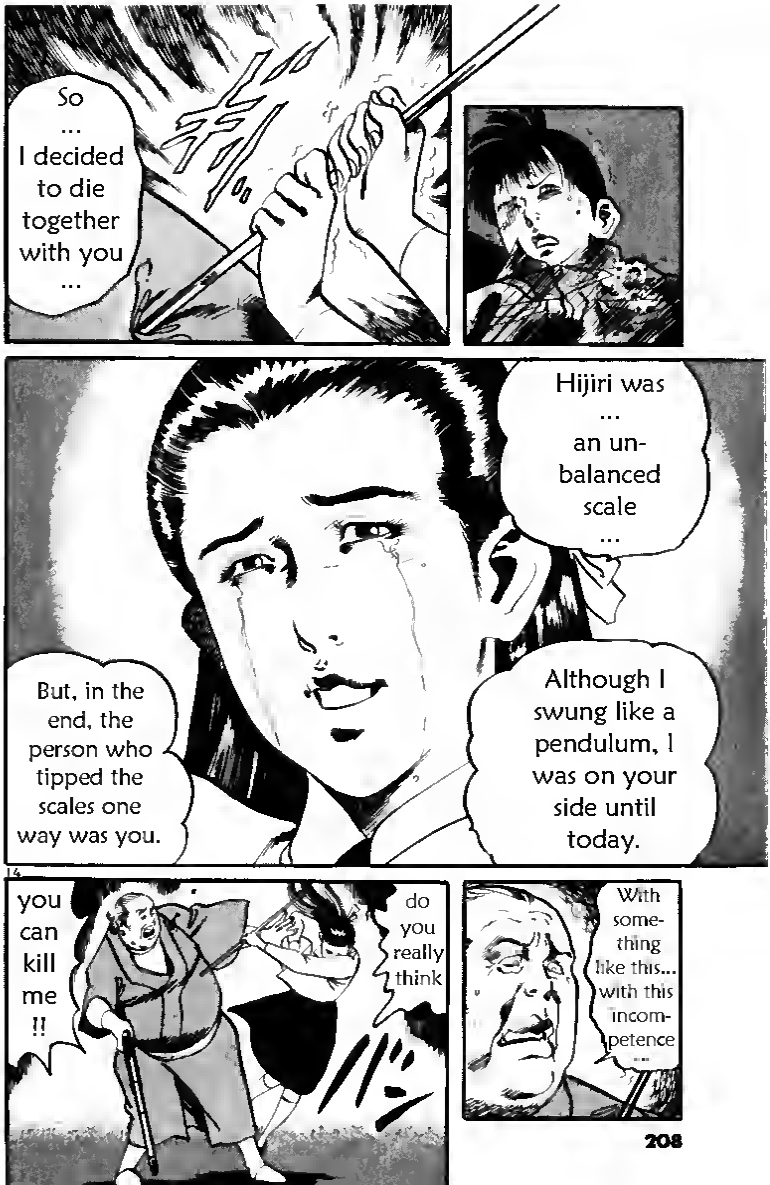
In this situation, no one will make me kill?
My mission is... to kill those who target Saitou Shuuhei!

ヒイイイ
ア！
…

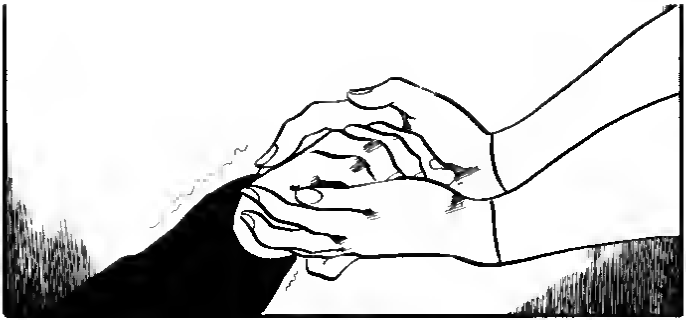
Your fangs are broken, beaten.

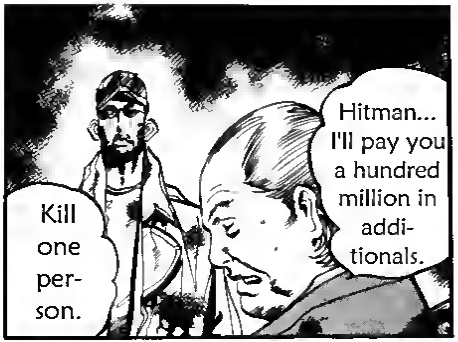
You think I'll hand over my Hijiri
to someone like you?!
Saitou, you bastard ...!!
My --

Father... I'm the one who hired the people who came here today and attacked...
Wh ... at ...
I loved you... because I knew that you were a very lonely person!
And I worried about you... because you kept me from the first person I ever loved... ever since the two of us were born!
Hijiri ... why ...?


So ... I decided to die together with you ...
Hijiri was ... an un-balanced scale ...
Although I swung like a pendulum, I was on your side until today.
But, in the end, the person who tipped the scales one way was you.
you can kill me !!
do you really think
With some-thing like this... with this incom-petence ...

Even a daughter like you is of no concern to me.
Dis-
ap-
pear
...

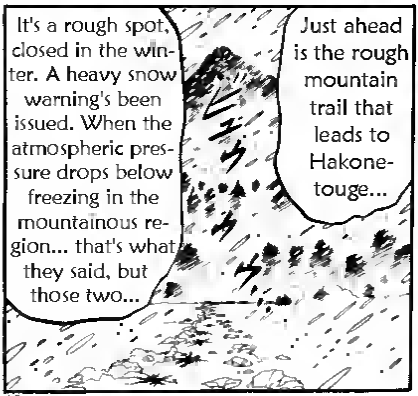



Kill one person.
Hitman... I'll pay you a hundred million in additionals.
TL 1 million USD

I only kill living people.
You, you're dead.
ズガ!

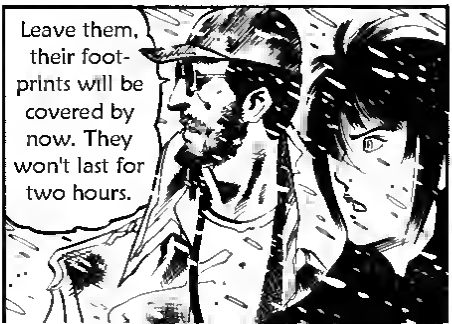
Me ...
Blow my head off with one shot.

ビュウ


It's a rough spot, closed in the winter. A heavy snow warning's been issued. When the atmospheric pressure drops below freezing in the mountainous region... that's what they said, but those two...
Just ahead is the rough mountain trail that leads to Hakone-touge...
ビュウ

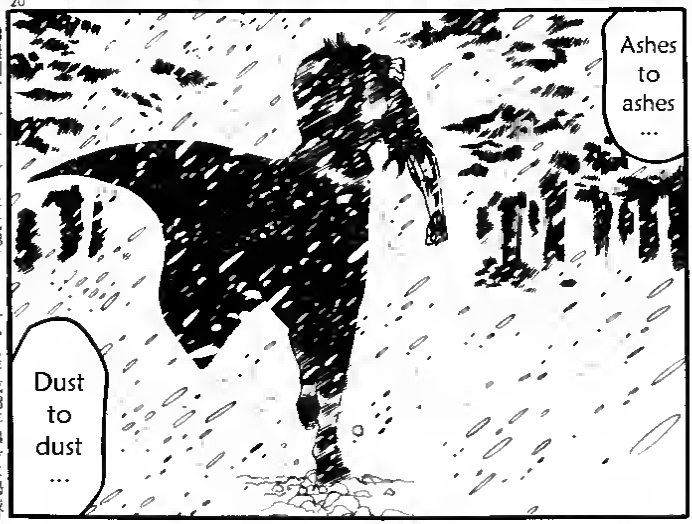
They're ... gone ... both of them ...

ビュウ


Leave them, their footprints will be covered by now. They won't last for two hours.

If they're still living...
Pro-tec-tor ...!
You're one hard-to-save idiot.

ドドド



■週刊ヤングサンデー：平成13年3・4号から平成13年14号に掲載

——闇のイージス2・完——

This is an illustration from the initial creation stages of 'Aegis' that Fujiwara-sensei drew before the start of serialization. This later became the model for 'Zero.' (For details, reference the next page's afterword from Nanatsuki-sensei.)

Afterword

"The Man Called Zero"

Soon, it'll be half a year since "Yami no Aegis" began. It's been both long and short...

No, it's been short! The passage of time has been frightfully fast!

When I open my eyes and face my desk, the speed at which the days pass by separates from any physical sensation as I endlessly keep on with my lifestyle of continuing to strike my REUDO keyboard straight through until I faint, losing the battle against drowsiness, oblivious to weekends.

For the last volume's "Afterword," I was happy that the separate volume of manga allowed me to do an undertaking not normally done and that was great, but, now, the next "Afterword" has already come around. It's strange. Even though I only just finished writing that previous one volume.

But, this feeling is that of when work can be shared. "Yami no Aegis" is particularly fun. I want to talk about Zero.

The character known as Zero did not exist even in part during the planning phase of this manga. In the episode with the first time he ??, he had a vague "strong enemy" sort of image, but, we couldn't have even predicted that that would grow into this kind of character.

Nanatsuki Kyouichi

TL: The characters represented by ?? are illegible.

The initial sketch in the character design for Tate Karito that Fujiwara Yoshihide-san came up with during the planning phase of this manga had several variations. but. among them was One who was modelled off a famous French actor. The direction was wrong for the design of Karito. but. that remaining presence consequently haunted the minds of both myself and my staff member X. So. finally. it was given a different name and character and Zero was born.

Now. he's a completely indispensable character in this work and staff member X's highly recommended character. In the bonus "Young Sunday Extra Issue." the lead role ended up affixed to him within the published story. (Volume 3 compilation planned.)

The original image derived from a movie actor. but. now. Zero is a long way off that first image. coming alive of his own volition.

Manga becoming original work means that it is by no means a one-way street from "original work to manga." that this is a good example whereby feedback is actually given by the art team to the original work team. which. often. becomes the inspiration for creating something new.

The work in such a time is truly harmonious. For the present. it appears the days where I understand the passage of time less and less will continue.

A bit troublesome. that....

2000年4月20日 BAR「雁の巣」のカウンターにて
http://www02.so-net.ne.jp/juiy-m/

闇のイージス
AEGIS IN THE DARK

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X-POSED SCANLATIONS

Translator: Natsume Rika

Raws: Dante Julius

Project Leader: Rainn Aron

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What did you say ...?!
...
...what?
I bet you're just jealous because I actually HAVE a face, you masked freak!
My! Face! Does! NOT! Look! Like! A! Toad!!